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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS. PRISONS, PENITENTIARIES, &c.

Rapports sur les Pénitenciers des Etats Unis.
Par M. Demetz, Conseiller à la Cour Royale, etc., et par M. G. Abel Blouet, Architecte du Gouvernement. Avec Planches. Folio. Paris, 1837. Published by the Government.

OUR attention having been drawn to the interesting question of prison discipline by Mr. Laurie's pamphlet, reviewed in No. 1049 of the *Gazette*; and then feeling it to be a subject on which public attention was likely to turn, we prepared to resume it on the first convenient opportunity. This is now afforded us through the aid of the volume which forms the subject of the present notice. Without the remotest intention of detracting from the universally admitted merits of our transatlantic brethren in the management of their penal establishments, we, however, think it necessary to advise such as are desirous of acquiring a real knowledge of the results of prison discipline, not to yield a too implicit credence to all the statements from that quarter. In the United States every thing is in the extreme; the tone of exaggeration which pervades their most trifling relations, has invaded even the grave and untempting subject which we are treating; nor are the pardonable ebullitions of national vanity alone to be guarded against: Messieurs De Beaumont and De Toqueville, in their admirable work upon the American penitentiary systems, say, "There are in the United States a certain number of philosophical minds, who, full of theories and systems, are impatient to put them into practice; and, if they had the power to make the law of the land, they would efface with one dash of the pen all the old customs, in order to substitute the creations of their genius, and the decrees of their wisdom." Such men—and no country is free from them—are never restrained by the consideration, that it is only possible to do what is practicable, not all that is desired. Purely benevolent in their aim, skilled in artificial reasoning, they are often profoundly wanting in that very knowledge which is indispensable to their pursuit—knowledge of the world. By an unyielding tenacity to their own particular views, they often retard the progress of prudent reforms, and injure the very cause of which they are the injudicious advocates.

Two systems of prison discipline, known under the denominations of silent and solitary, have each their ardent and passionate supporters in the United States.

The first was enforced in 1824 at Auburn, in the province of New York; the latter in 1827, in the Eastern Penitentiary, in Pennsylvania.

At Auburn, each prisoner sleeps in a separate cell; but the whole are brought together to labour at various trades during the day: non-intercourse, by word or sign, is strictly enforced, by the application of corporal and other punishments; the only intermissions to the discipline of silence being the intercourse necessary for moral and religious instruction in the school or chapel. At the Eastern Peni-

tentiary, the prisoner, on his admission, is covered with a cowl, and conveyed to a cell, which he is not to leave until the expiration of his sentence. Work is provided for him only at his request. He is allowed communication solely with the officers and official visitors of the prison.

The complete success of both these institutions is loudly sounded by their respective adherents, claiming for each the merit of solving the still-perplexing problem of a perfect system of penal discipline. The governments of Europe, ever alive to this interesting subject, despatched commissioners to inquire and report thereon. The publications of Messieurs De Beaumont and De Toqueville, and of Mr. Crawford, are well known. A third report is now before us, which furnishes the results of a later and longer experience, and brings with it a fresh accumulation of facts and information. The French government, anxious to obtain a more complete knowledge of the subject, despatched two commissioners in 1836 for the purpose of examining into the discipline and construction of the prisons in the United States. Messieurs Demetz and Blouet, a lawyer and an architect, both eminent in their professions, were selected. These gentlemen, particularly the first, appear ardent admirers of the solitary discipline of Philadelphia; we say, advisedly, solitary, as attempts are making among us to soften it into the milder expletive of separate confinement. In the United States, it is known by no other designation than that of solitary. Some of the arguments urged by the commissioners in their report on behalf of this system appear rather strange; and we think the following passage but little likely to meet with much sympathy among Frenchmen:

"Not only, as we have already stated, is solitude favourable to religious feelings, but the Christian religion may be said to have laid the foundation of the penitentiary system; and the history of the church presents a thousand examples of pious anchorites, some of whom, among the mighty of the world, either in expiation of real or imaginary crimes, shrouded themselves in a cloister, a cavern, or a desert, to pass in solitude a life of fasting, prayer, and mortification. The Chartreux of Saint Bruno, and the convent of La Trappe, were but penitentiaries of a more rigorous order than that of Philadelphia."

Independently of the extravagance of such reasoning, we look upon this system with great distrust, in almost every point in which it comes before us. The attempt to introduce it into this country is a sufficient apology for entering somewhat minutely into the investigation of its principles and details. We cannot understand its boasted moral influence. A prisoner, placed between four walls, is not in a state of probation or trial; he is physically restrained from doing evil to society, by being interdicted its presence. His obedience to discipline is no result of will, but of necessity. Is this ancient monastic discipline calculated to reform and return him a purified member back to that world from which he has been temporarily excluded? We are afraid that neither

the records of the Chartreux nor La Trappe will supply evidence of such being a probable effect. We have but little faith in such penitentiary saints. Our great moralist, Johnson, says, that "solitude is dangerous to reason, without being favourable to virtue." But then, exclaim the supporters of this system, this is not solitude, but separation; the prisoner is to enjoy the improving conversation of keepers and turnkeys; the consolation and instruction of the chaplain; and is to be provided with manual labour. We see considerable reason, putting aside other objections, to doubt the practicability of any application of this scheme on an extended scale.

Under it, the ignorant are to be instructed in the elements of reading, singly; the agricultural labourer, with hands hard and knotted by rough labour, is to be taught, singly, some new employment or occupation; the chaplain is to console all singly; the surgeon to see all singly; the keeper and turnkeys to visit all singly. But, how are these things really managed? The French commissioners give us the following as a fundamental rule of the Eastern Penitentiary: "The warden shall visit each cell, and see every prisoner in his charge at least once a-day." To it they add this remark: "The number of prisoners renders the execution of this rule impossible. The warden sees every prisoner about twice a week." We have no means of ascertaining how the chaplain might manage his Augean labours, for we find, by what follows, there is no such functionary. "In this establishment, which appears so admirably calculated to produce favourable results from religious instruction, we are unable to test its effects by any experience. Ministers have, it is true, at times, voluntarily lent their services to advise and instruct the prisoners. Occasionally, they have celebrated divine service, but this has never been done regularly, or without interruption; and the majority have been unable to benefit by their zeal."

On the introduction of a new system, calling for a vast outlay in reconstructing prisons, the projectors may naturally be expected, among a utilitarian population like our own, to shew some results of the past which may promise reasonable expectations of advantage for the future. We look for this in vain. In the report of the Boston Prison Discipline Society for 1836, we find the following comparative statement of the recommissions to the two prisons:

"The whole number discharged from the new penitentiary in Philadelphia, from October 22, 1829, when the first prisoner was received, to January 1, 1836, was 189; of whom 16 have been recommitted, i. e. one in eleven and $\frac{1}{11}$. The whole number discharged from the Auburn prison from 1828 to 1833 inclusive, was 782; of whom only 55 were recommitted: making a difference, in favour of the Auburn prison, in regard to recommissions, of more than two per cent, and thus saving, on 782 discharged, at least 15 from being recommitted."

It has been most steadfastly denied, by the advocates for solitary imprisonment with labour, that this seclusion had any tendency to

insanity; but, to our minds, this doubt is any thing but satisfactorily cleared up, by the evidence of at least one disinterested and competent witness, Dr. Bach, the physician to the penitentiary. Upon the subject of mental alienation in prisons, after expressing his opinion that there is a disposition to this disease in all prisoners, he says:

"These observations tend to prove that in all prisons cases of insanity, either more or less, will occur; facts confirmed by my own experience, during a great number of years, while physician to the prison in Walnut Street, and the Eastern Penitentiary. But, in making a comparison between the two prisons, I consider it my duty to declare that I have met with more cases of insanity in the Penitentiary than in the Walnut Street prison."

The number of deaths in the penitentiary average about 3 per cent annually, during a period of seven years; a mortality considerably higher than in the Auburn prison, or in this country. We extract the following tables of casualties in the Eastern Penitentiary, from its opening, in 1829, to January 1837:

Discharged in better health	78
Same health	164
Weaker	17
Worse health	15
Very bad health	4
Deaths	34
Remaining in Penitentiary 1st Jan. 1837	385
Total	697

Table of the Ages of Deceased Prisoners, with the length of their Imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia.

No.	Time in Prison.	Age.
13	17 months	26
19	7 months	40
30	6 years 3 months	21
33	7 months	28
40	22 months	28
43	10 months	35
49	22 months	25 suicide.
63	4 years	30
77	4 months	53
102	19 months	42
119	4 months	27
114	2 months	36
148	13 months	19
165	14 months	19
199	21 years	30
202	2 years 1 month	22
206	16 months	18
210	2 years 10 months	21
219	9 months	40
232	8 months	Age not inserted.
245	1 year	Ditto.
246	13 months	Ditto.
268	14 year	Ditto.
287	1 year	Ditto.
303	14 months	Ditto.
331	18 months	14
354	19 months	16
399	6 months	24
411	9 months	16
443	15 months 6 days	21
450	4 months	54
623	5 months	Age not inserted.

The early age at which the majority of deaths have occurred, is very remarkable.

The physical impossibility of the prisoners' communicating with each other, has also been strongly relied upon by the partisans of this system. Again, we derive fresh light from the report, where Dr. Bach says: "Prisoners condemned to solitary imprisonment should be deprived of all possibility of communicating with each other, either by sounds or signs. This is not really the case in the Eastern Penitentiary. The water-closets in the cells have occasionally been a source of inconvenience, by their being obstructed, causing a disagreeable smell, and being a channel for communication." We quote again: "They mention the following circumstance, which took place at the Eastern Penitentiary. Mr. Wood, the warden, being desirous of ascertaining whether the prisoners in two adjoining cells were acquainted with the name of a third pri-

soner in the cell between them, after having assured them that their answer should not draw upon them any punishment, asked the question; they immediately told him the name, adding, that they had obtained it from the other!"

Admitting the principle to be established for the sake of argument, we cannot help thinking that the details of the measure are so complicated, the pecuniary sacrifice so enormous as to be in themselves serious objections to its general introduction. Among the numerous class of prisoners committed for acts of vagrancy in this country, are the halt, the maimed, the blind, the epileptic, infants, youths, and aged persons. Are they intended to be brought under the operation of this rule? Can they be so safely? In the Eastern Penitentiary no commitment is for a shorter period than one year; here, under the circumstances above adverted to, they are often sent for a few days. How are they to be provided with the description of work which can be carried on in a cell apart from others? Even now it is found impossible to employ prisoners otherwise than at the tread-wheel, particularly in the agricultural districts; and the difficulty would become universal, by the great increase in the number of manual labourers occasioned by the adoption of this general system in our prisons. In the manufacturing town of Glasgow this system has been partially acted upon for several years, but, with the single exception of the considerable earnings of the prisoners by weaving, there is nothing in this instance to encourage a more extended application. The recommissions are very numerous, quite as much so as in other establishments.

The safe working of this system is wholly dependent upon providing each prisoner with labour in his cell; without it the most distressing consequences are the result. At Auburn the experiment was tried, and proved fatal to many of the prisoners. We extract from the Report of the Boston Prison Discipline Society, the details of what followed in Virginia:

"There was a law of the state in force from the 9th of March, 1824, to the 9th of March, 1826, requiring each person to be confined in his dark and solitary cell for six months after being received; and from the 9th of March, 1826, to the 9th of March, 1829, that three months at the commencement, and three at the close, should be in the same manner; and from the 9th of March, 1829, to the 9th of March, 1833, that the last three months should be spent in this manner. The punishment under this system was awful; and, call it by what name it may be called, there can be no satisfactory evidence that a large number of convicts were not directly or indirectly killed by the process. The mortality in

1824, out of 211 prisoners, was 16	
1825	191
1826	154
1827	149
1828	145
1829	149
1830	155
1831	168
1832	165
1833	124

That is, 203 deaths in 9 years; or, in other words, 22 deaths annually out of an average of 178 prisoners. On the 9th of March, 1833, the law requiring this horrible punishment was repealed, and the frightful mortality immediately ceased."

With respect to the silent system as practised at Auburn, neither our time nor space

admit of their present discussion; without attaching much value to the advantages claimed for it by partisans, it is at least capable of general application at a comparatively trifling expense, without moral or physical injury to the culprit; and is, also, free from the objection of cutting him off entirely from the presence and habits of social life, for which he was intended by his beneficent Creator. In the above remark we do not include the English prisons under what is termed the silent system, where prisoners are employed as sub-officers in carrying on the discipline; if the system be of any value, it seems to us it ought to be enforced, as in the United States, by paid servants only.

Independently of the portions of the volume referred to in our notice, this work contains a particular description of the discipline and construction of the principal prisons in the United States. The architectural details here collected seem very valuable for the profession. Two neat designs for Penitentiaries on both systems are also appended, with elaborate estimates of the cost of their erection, by which it appears the expense of building for the Philadelphia, or solitary discipline, is nearly double that of the Auburn, or silent.

Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians, including their Private Life, Government, Laws, Arts, Manufactures, Religion, and Early History; derived from a Comparison of the Paintings, Sculptures, and Monuments still existing with the Accounts of Ancient Authors. Illustrated by Drawings of some Subjects. By J. G. Wilkinson, F.R.S., M.R.S.L., &c. 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1838. Murray.

WE never regret the limited extent of our weekly means so much as when a work like the present comes under our notice; for we feel how utterly inadequate even the most bulky and elaborate criticism must be to do justice to its merits and importance. The old story of the brick, as a sample of a house, would be completely verified by the longest review we could write of a publication which discusses so many interesting subjects, brings so much research and learning to bear upon their elucidation, and produces so much of remarkable novelty to throw light upon their darkest recesses. An enumeration of them would only be an essay upon the title-page; and every separate chapter would require a *Literary Gazette* to develop the patient and ingenious labours of the author, whether directed to an investigation of the arts, the religion, the domestic manners, or the general history of Ancient Egypt.

It is so far well that on former occasions we have entered so much into questions connected with this country, its literature and customs, that our readers will not be ill prepared to go along with any portion of Mr. Wilkinson's inquiries; and, therefore, whatever we select to illustrate them, though separated from the whole design, will be understood. For this reason we will turn at once to some of the usages of the people, which tend to illustrate the old saying, "there is nothing new under the sun."

"Herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats, were numerous; and pigs, though unclean, and an abomination to the Egyptians, frequently formed part of the stock of the farm-yard; but they are more rarely represented in the sculptures than other animals. Their cattle were of different kinds, of which three principal distinctions are most deserving

of notice, — the short, the long-horned cattle, and the Indian, or humped ox; and the two last, though no longer natives of Egypt, are common to this day in Abyssinia and Upper Ethiopia. Horses and asses were abundant in Egypt, and the latter were employed as beasts of burden, for treading out corn, particularly in Lower Egypt, and for many other purposes. Like those of the present day, it is probable that they were small, active, and capable of bearing great fatigue; and, considering the trifling expense at which these hardy animals were maintained, we are not surprised to find that they were kept in great numbers in the agricultural districts, or that one individual had as many as seven hundred and sixty employed in different parts of his estate. Egyptian horses were greatly esteemed; they were even exported to the neighbouring countries, and Solomon bought them at a hundred and fifty shekels of silver, from the merchants who traded with Egypt by the Syrian desert. It is remarkable that the camel, though known to have been used in, and probably a native of, Egypt, as early, at least, as the time of Abraham (the Bible distinctly stating it to have been among the presents given by Pharaoh to the patriarch), has never yet been met with in the paintings or hieroglyphics. We cannot, however, infer, from our finding no representation, or notice of it, that it was rare in any part of the country, since the same would apply to poultry, which, it is scarcely necessary to observe, was always abundant in Egypt: for no instance occurs in the sculptures of fowls or pigeons, among the stock of the farm-yard, though geese are repeatedly introduced, and numbered in the presence of the stewards. The mode of rearing poultry, and the artificial process of hatching the eggs of fowls and geese, I have already mentioned in a former work, where I have shewn the method adopted by the Copts, from their predecessors. Many birds, which frequented the interior and skirts of the desert, and were highly prized for the table, were caught in nets and traps, by the fowlers, as the partridge, *gutta*, bustard, and quail; and waterfowl of different descriptions, which abounded in the valley of the Nile, afforded endless diversion to the sportsman, and profit to those who gained a livelihood by their sale.

“*Fowling*.—Fowling was a favourite amusement of all classes; and the fowlers and fishermen, as I have already observed, were subdivisions of one of the castes. They either caught the birds in large clap-nets, or in traps; and they sometimes shot them with arrows, or felled them with a throw-stick, as they flew in the thickets.”

Cats were, apparently, trained to catch birds, and to act as retrievers; and Mr. Wilkinson observes:—

“That cats, as well as dogs, were looked upon with great esteem by the Egyptians, is evident from the care they took to preserve and embalm them, and from the express statements of ancient writers. Herodotus mentions the concern they felt at their loss, and the general mourning that ensued in a house, even if they died a natural death; every inmate being obliged to shave his eyebrows, in token of sorrow, for the loss of a cat, and the head and whole body for the death of a dog. When ill, they watched and attended them with the greatest solicitude; and, if any person purposely, or even involuntarily, killed one of these revered animals, it was deemed a capital offence; nor could all the influence of the magistrates, nor even the dread of the Roman name, prevent the people from sacrificing to

their resentment an incautious Roman who had killed a cat, though it was evident that he had done it unintentionally. . . . Some remains of this prejudice in favour of the cat may still be traced among the modern Egyptians, who even allow it to eat from the same dish, and to be the constant companion of their children; though the reputed reason of their predilection for this animal is its utility in watching and destroying scorpions, and other reptiles, which infest the houses. Dogs are not regarded by them with the same feelings; they are considered unclean, and are seldom admitted into the house, except by some persons of the Malekee sect, who do not, like the Shaffaees, and Hanefees, consider themselves defiled by their touch. But though they draw this marked distinction between them, the character given to the two animals appears to be in favour of the dog; which they represent, in the true spirit of oriental fable, when asked hereafter respecting the treatment it received from man, concealing all the numerous injuries it has received, and magnifying the few benefits, while the cat is supposed to deny the obligations conferred upon it, and to endeavour to detract from the merits of its benefactor. Though the death of a cat is not attended with lamentations or funeral honours, it is looked upon by many of the modern Egyptians to be wrong to kill, or even to ill-treat them; and some have carried their humanity so far as to bequeath by will a fund for their support, in compliance with which these animals are daily fed in Cairo at the Cadi's court, and the *bazar* of Khan Khaleel.”

The following remarks on the arts and manufactures of the Egyptians, are full of interest:

“Of the progress of the ancient Egyptians in many useful branches of art, we have unquestionable proofs in the monuments that remain, and from the evidence of ancient writers. The sculptures inform us that many inventions were known to them at the early periods when most other nations were still in their infancy, which, though generally ascribed to a much later epoch, are, from the facility we now have of fixing the chronology of Egyptian monuments, ascertained to be coeval with the Exodus, or the bondage of the Israelites. The scientific skill they possessed in architecture, is always a matter of surprise to the traveller who beholds the stupendous monuments of Egypt; whose solid masonry would have defied the ravages of time, and have remained unimpaired to the present day, had not the destructive hand of man been employed against them. The invasion of Cambyzes, and the subsequent wars with the Persians; the three years' siege of Thebes, by Ptolemy Lathyrus, which laid several of her buildings in ruins, and so completely reduced that ancient capital, that it was no longer worthy to be considered an Egyptian city; the inveteracy of the Christians against their Pagan predecessors, and the abhorrence of the Moslems for the monuments of the idolatrous infidels; and, lastly, the position of the temples, which presented themselves to the mason as a convenient quarry, supplying, at little labour and expense, abundance of stones for the erection of new edifices, were the baneful causes of the downfall of the Egyptian monuments; but, though great portions of the finest buildings were destroyed, sufficient remains to attest their former grandeur, and to proclaim the wonderful skill and mechanical knowledge of their founders. At the period of the Persian invasion, Egypt was looked upon as the great school of science, and the repository of all kinds of learning; but the arts had fallen

from the degree of excellence to which they attained, under the Augustan age of the 18th dynasty, and, though luxury and private wealth increased, taste in sculpture and architecture had long since been on the decline, and minute and highly finished details were substituted for the simple and dignified forms of an earlier period. The arts, however, continued to flourish under the succeeding dynasties; and in the reigns of Psamaticus and Amasia, the encouragement given to architecture, sculpture, and painting, seemed to promise an improvement, if not the revival, of taste, and arrested for a time their downfall: but an unexpected event was destined to bring about their sudden decadence, and the Persian conquest dealt a blow from which they vainly strove to recover in the succeeding reigns of the Macedonian dynasty; for not only were the finest monuments destroyed or mutilated, statues, works of art, and all the wealth of the country carried off to Persia, but the artists themselves were compelled to leave their homes to follow the conquerors to their capital, and to commemorate the victories obtained over Egypt by the authors of their own captivity and misfortunes. Thus deprived of the finest models, humbled by the lengthened occupation of the country, and losing the only persons capable of directing taste, or encouraging art, Egypt, already beginning to sink, vainly endeavoured to struggle with the overwhelming current of events; and, while Persia was benefited, Egyptian art received its death-blow from the invasion of Cambyzes. The Egyptians had long been renowned for mathematical science; but it was not till the power and wealth of the country were at their zenith, that full scope was given for its display in the grand style of public monuments; a fact, sufficiently indicated by their increase of scale and vastness of size at that period; the buildings of older time being generally of much smaller dimensions than those of the advanced age of the 18th dynasty. I particularly allude to the temples and to the colossal statues erected at the latter epoch, which far exceed in their scale, and the size of the blocks themselves, the ordinary monuments of an earlier era, as may be observed in the increased proportions of the grand hall of Karnak, added by Remeses the Great, and the dimensions of the sitting colossi of Amunoph, in the plain of Thebes; or that of Remeses, at the Memnonium, which weighed about 886 tons, and was brought over land from the quarries at the cataracts of Syene, a distance of more than 120 miles.

“In their household furniture, and the ornamental objects used in their dwelling-houses, they were not restricted by any established rules: here, as I have observed, much taste was displayed, and their vases frequently bear so strong a resemblance to those of Greece, that we might feel disposed to consider them borrowed from Greek models, did not their known antiquity forbid such a conclusion; and many have mistaken the ornamental devices attached to them, and to other fancy works of Egyptian art, for the productions of Greek sculptors. Now that we are acquainted with the dates of the Egyptian monuments, the square border and scrolls, so common on Athenian, Sicilian, Etruscan, and Græco-Italian vases, are shewn to be, from the most remote time, among the ordinary devices on cups, and the ceilings of tombs at Thebes, and other places; and the graceful curve of the Egyptian cornice, which, not confined to architecture, is repeated on vases, and numerous articles of furniture, was evidently adopted for the same ornamental purpose by the Greeks.

Glass, Porcelain, and false Stones.—One of the most remarkable inventions of a remote era, and one with which the Egyptians appear to have been acquainted at least as early as the reign of the first Osirtasen, upwards of 3500 years ago, is that of glass-blowing. The process is represented in the paintings of Beni Hassan, executed during the reign of that monarch, and his immediate successors; and the same is again repeated, in other parts of Egypt, in tombs of various epochs. The form of the bottle, and the use of the blowpipe, are unequivocally indicated in those subjects; and the green hue of the fused material, taken from the fire at the point of the pipe, cannot fail to show the intention of the artist. But if the sceptic should feel disposed to withhold his belief on the authority of a painted representation, and deny that the use of glass could be proved on such evidence, it may be well to remind him that images of glazed pottery were common at the same period, that the vitrified substance with which they are covered is of the same quality as glass, and that therefore the mode of fusing, and the proper proportions of the ingredients for making glass, were already known to them; and we can positively state, that 200 years after, or about 1500 B.C., they made ornaments of glass; a bead bearing a king's name who lived at that period having been found at Thebes, by my friend Captain Henvey, R.N., the specific gravity of which, 25° 23', is precisely the same as of crown glass, now manufactured in England. Many glass bottles, and objects of various forms, have been met with in the tombs of Upper and Lower Egypt, some unquestionably of very remote antiquity, though not readily ascribed to any fixed epoch, owing to the absence of royal names indicative of their date; and glass vases, if we may trust to the representations in the Theban paintings, are frequently shewn to have been used for holding wine, at least as early as the Exodus, 1490 years before our era.

After noticing the arguments, now overthrown, against a belief in the early manufacture of glass, and then against its quality, Mr. Wilkinson adds:—

"Such, too, was the skill of the Egyptians in the manufacture of glass, and in the mode of staining it of various hues, that they counterfeited with success the amethyst and other precious stones, and even arrived at an excellence in the art which their successors have been unable to retain, and which our European workmen, in spite of their improvements in other branches of this manufacture, are still unable to imitate; for not only do the colours of some Egyptian opaque glass offer the most varied devices on the exterior, distributed with the regularity of a studied design, but the same hue and the same device pass in right lines directly through the substance; so that in whatever part it is broken, or wherever a section may chance to be made of it, the same appearance, the same colours, and the same device, present themselves, without being found ever to deviate from the direction of a straight line, from the external surface to the interior. This quality of glass, of which I have seen several specimens, has been already noticed by the learned Winkelmann, who is decidedly of opinion that 'the ancients carried the art of glass-making to a higher degree of perfection than ourselves, though it may appear a paradox to those who have not seen their works in this material.' He describes two pieces of glass, found at Rome, a few years before he wrote, which were of the quality above mentioned.

'One of them,' he says, 'though not quite an inch in length, and a third of an inch in breadth, exhibits, on a dark and variegated ground, a bird resembling a duck, in very bright and varied colours, rather in the manner of a Chinese painting than a copy of nature. The outlines are bold and decided, the colours beautiful and pure, and the effect very pleasing; in consequence of the artist having alternately introduced an opaque and a transparent glass. The most delicate pencil of a miniature painter could not have traced with greater sharpness the circle of the eyeball, or the plumage of the neck and wings; at which part this specimen has been broken. But the most surprising thing is, that the reverse exhibits the same bird, in which it is impossible to discover any difference in the smallest details; whence it may be concluded that the figure of the bird continues through its entire thickness. The picture has a granular appearance on both sides, and seems to have been formed of single pieces, like mosaic work, united with so much skill, that the most powerful magnifying glass is unable to discover their junction. From the condition of this fragment, it was at first difficult to form any idea of the process employed in its manufacture: and we should have remained entirely ignorant of it, had not the fracture shewn that filaments of the same colours as on the surface of the glass, and throughout its whole diameter, passed from one side to the other; whence it has been concluded that the picture was composed of different cylinders of coloured glass, which being subjected to a proper degree of heat, united by (partial) fusion. I cannot suppose they would have taken so much trouble, and have been contented to make a picture only the sixth of an inch thick, while, by employing longer filaments, they might have produced one many inches in thickness, without occupying any additional time in the process; it is therefore probable this was cut from a larger or thicker piece, and the number of the pictures taken from the same depended on the length of the filaments, and the consequent thickness of the original mass. The other specimen, also broken, and about the size of the preceding one, is made in the same manner. It exhibits ornaments of a green, yellow, and white colour, on a blue ground, which consist in volutes, strings of beads, and flowers, ending in pyramidal points. All the details are perfectly distinct and unconfused, and yet so very minute, that the keenest eye is unable to follow the delicate lines in which the volutes terminate; the ornaments, however, are all continued, without interruption, through the entire thickness of the piece.' Sometimes, when the specimens were very thin, they applied and cemented them to a small slab of stone of their own size, which served as a support at the back; and by this means they were enabled to cut them much thinner, and consequently to increase their number. Two of the most curious specimens I have seen, of this kind of glass, have been brought to England."

We come to another important article:—

"The quantity of linen manufactured and used in Egypt was truly surprising, and independent of that made up into articles of dress, the great abundance used for enveloping the mummies, both of men and animals, shews how large a supply must have been kept ready for the constant demand at home, as well as for that of the foreign market. That the bandages employed in wrapping the dead are of linen, and not, as some have imagined, of cotton, has been already ascertained by the most satisfactory tests; and, though no one,

even among the unscientific inhabitants of modern Egypt, ever thought of questioning the fact, received opinion in Europe had, till lately, decided that they were cotton; and it was forbidden to doubt that 'the bands of *byssine* linen,' said by Herodotus to have been used for enveloping the mummies, were cotton. My own impression had certainly been that the mummy cloths were invariably linen; but positive experience had not then confirmed my opinion, and I reluctantly yielded to the universal belief, and concluded that some, at least, might be cotton. The accurate experiments made, with the aid of powerful microscopes, by Dr. Ure, Mr. Bauer, Mr. Thompson, and others, on the nature of the fibres of linen and cotton threads, have shewn that the former invariably present a cylindrical form, transparent, and articulated, or jointed like a cane; while the latter offer the appearance of a flat ribbon, with a hem or border at each edge; so that there is no possibility of mistaking the fibres of either, except, perhaps, when the cotton is in an unripe state, and the flattened shape of the centre is less apparent. The results having been found similar in every instance, and the structure of the fibres thus unquestionably determined, the threads of mummy cloths were submitted to the same test, and no exception was found to their being linen, nor were they even a mixture of linen and cotton thread. The fact of the mummy cloths being linen is therefore decided. It now remains to inquire into the nature of the *byssus*; in which I confess considerable difficulty presents itself, owing to the Hebrew *shash* being translated *byssus*, in the Septuagint version, and, in our own, 'fine linen,' and to *shash* being the name applied at this day, by the Arabs, to fine muslin, which is of cotton, and not of linen; for the similarity of the words in these cognate languages argues in favour of the same meaning. On the other hand, Herodotus says the mummy cloths were 'of *byssine* sindon,' and they are found to be invariably linen: he uses the expression 'tree-wool' to denote cotton; and Julius Pollux adopts the same name, distinguishing it also from *byssus*, which he calls a species of Indian flax. The use of the two words *byssus* and *linon* present no difficulty, since they might be employed, like our flax and linen, to signify the plant, and the substance made from it. Cotton cloth, however, was among the manufactures of Egypt, and dresses of this material were worn by all classes."

The section on papyrus and writing materials is very curious; as, indeed, is every page relating to the trades, mechanics, and processes of manufacture, in this ancient world.

As a letter in another portion of our *Gazette* mentions the Pyramids, and discoveries now making in these mighty secrets of antiquity, we think it a fit opportunity to copy the following from Mr. Wilkinson:—

"It is remarkable that Memphis is styled the land of the pyramid. Its Egyptian name in the hieroglyphics is Menofri, in Coptic, Menfi, Manfi, Membe, Panoufi, or Mefi, being, probably, corrupted from Ma-n-nofri, 'the abode of good,' or, as Plutarch calls it, 'the haven of good men.' It is also called Pthah-éi, the abode of Pthah."

"It is evident that the tombs, built of stone, which stand in the area before and behind the great pyramid, were erected after it had been commenced, if not completed, as their position is made to conform to that monument; and that those hewn in the rock at the same place were not of an older period, is shewn by the

style of the sculptures, and the names of the same kings. Among these we evidently perceive Suphis, or, as the hieroglyphics write it, Shofu, or Khof, a name easily converted into Suphis or Cheops, by adding s, the Greek termination. But it is difficult, as I have already observed, to refer them to their proper epoch, or to fix their relative position in the list of kings. Nor can we decide whether the two first names here introduced, are both of Suphis, or if the second is of the founder of the other pyramid, whose name, *Sen-Suphis*, signifies the brother of Suphis; though they certainly appear to be of different kings, who lived about the same epoch. They occur again at Mount Sinai."

[To be continued.]

Diary of the Times of George IV.

[Third notice: conclusion.]

AFTER Colonel Webster's letter in our last *Gazette*, we ought, perhaps, to state distinctly that we believe Lady Charlotte Bury to be the author of this work; indeed we have no doubt whatever on that point, though a good deal of what is called mystification has been introduced into it, to puzzle the public. Of that species of humbug we have already noticed a few instances; to which we shall now only add a couple more:—

"Every body was going to Devonshire House. The princess should be grateful to Lady C. Campbell for having taken an extra turn in waiting on her royal highness at this particular time, as it puts her out of every thing that is grand and gay."

We fancy the princess was very grateful to Lady Charlotte, and this publication is a pretty requital: at page 191, vol. ii. it is written by some one, "she has heaped benefits on Lady C. C—, and sent her a thousand ducats in hard cash as soon as she arrived. Lady C. told me this, and spoke with gratitude and affection towards our poor mistress, though she confessed that it was painful to owe gratitude where esteem could not cancel the debt. 'Yet,' added Lady C., 'I hope my services are of some use to her royal highness, and that the balance is pretty even on the score of obligation.'"

The volume to which we have just referred is so confused that it is not easy to make out who are the writers of its foreign tours and correspondence, to whom the letters are addressed, or what are the dates of the transactions. Some parts relate to the princess before she left England; some to her travels abroad; and some to her return and trial: but the jumble is so mixed and perplexing, and there is so much extraneous matter to fill up the book, that we can hardly tell how to exemplify it. With the continental tour comes coarse allusions to manners too filthy even to be hinted at in decent England (see p. 61, &c. &c.); and the pictures of the poor princess herself all tend to exhibit her as violating every feminine and delicate feeling by acts of the most ridiculous kind and the grossest indecorum:—

"Thursday, the 15th September.—Was informed Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was arrived. I was electrified—was it with pain or pleasure? 'Oh, that I had wings like a dove!' My poor friend, Lady —, was called upon to get up a ball directly in honour of her royal highness, and was obliged to drive all over the town and country to beat up for recruits, which was not an easy matter; so many of the English travellers wished to avoid knowing her, and somehow the natives

had no mind to be troubled with royalty; so that poor Lady — was obliged to take many rebuffs, and found it very difficult to get together personages sufficient to make up a ball. At last, however, this great feat was effected, and, thanks to three Germans, who were a host in themselves, the ball took place. But, what was my horror when I beheld the poor princess enter, dressed *en Venus*, or rather not dressed, further than the waist. I was, as she used to say herself, 'all over shock.' A more injudicious choice of costume could not be adopted; and when she began to waltz, the *terra motus* was dreadful. Waltz she did, however, the whole night, with pertinacious obstinacy; and amongst others whom she honoured with her hand upon this occasion, was Sismondi. These two large figures turning round together were quite miraculous. As I really entertained a friendship for the princess, I was unfeignedly grieved to see her make herself so utterly ridiculous. If this is a commencement only of what she intends to perform in the south, she will indeed lose herself entirely. The next day we were invited to a dinner given by her royal highness at Secheron. It might have been very agreeable, but the princess insisted upon undue homage from two of her attendants, and made herself so ridiculous, that I determined to set off from Geneva directly, and not witness her degradation."

We will not stop at the hundred innuendoes, each of which is a stab at character, nor point at the sayings or doings of the buzz-flies about this perambulating Bartholomew-fair court, about whom nobody cares a single jot; nor shall we take up the escape of Buonaparte from Elba, and its consequent train of circumstances. A few extracts to illustrate the blessed fate of being defended by friends, and another amiable exposition must finish our notice.

Lady Charlotte Campbell (now Bury) reiterated the princess's service at Genoa; and we hear—

"Her royal highness received Lady Charlotte Campbell (who came in soon after me) with open arms, and evident pleasure, and without any flurry. She had no rouge on, wore tidy shoes, was grown rather thinner, and looked altogether uncommonly well. The first person who opened the door to me was the one whom it was impossible to mistake, hearing what is reported; six feet high, a magnificent head of black hair, pale complexion, mustachios which reach from here to London. Such is the stork. But of course I only appeared to take him for an upper servant. The princess immediately took me aside, and told me all that was true, and a great deal that was not. The same decoction of mingled lies and truth is in use as heretofore. Oh! that some one would break the vial, and spill the vile liquid which she is using to her destruction in this world, as well as in the next! Her royal highness said that G[ell] and C[raven] had behaved very ill to her, and I am tempted to believe they have not behaved well; but then how did she behave to them? Besides, she began telling me such stories of them as made me sick, and that I in no ways believe, which immediately proved to me that she was lying from the littleness of her heart.

'Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.'

All this I laid to its right account; but it made me tremble to think what anger would induce a woman to do, when she abused these her best friends for their cavalier manner of treating her. If there was any cause of complaint I

am sure it was brought about by her own conduct, and I lament that it should have been so. 'Well, when I left Naples, you see, my dear,' continued the princess, 'those gentlemen refused to go with me, unless I returned immediately to England. They supposed I should be so miserable without them, that I would do anything they desired me; and when they found I was too glad to go red of 'em (as she called it), they wrote the most humble letters, and thought I would take them back again; whereas they were very much mistaken. I had got red of them, and I would remain so.'

"* * * I have never yet been able to detect any impropriety of manner, or even familiarity, towards the courier yet, but I live in fear every moment of having the horrid stories confirmed before my eyes. I should far rather go on doubting than be convinced of their truth. The rascal—for such I am sure he is in the way of cheating her royal highness—is very handsome. I have never hitherto observed anything with regard to him, as I did with the singers. I hope the whole is a lie."

But, enough of these sickening proofs of faithful attachment. For a change, we will come to another romance of high life, quite equal to that which has already made so much noise in the circles of fashion. It purports to be given in a letter from Florence, and runs thus.

"Though I know you do not interest yourself about gossip, I must tell you that there is a most curious story afloat (I do not vouch for the truth of it), saying the Duke of — is not the duchess's son. The duchess, it was said, substituted her friend Lady —'s child for her own, the present duchess's, that is to say: consequently, the child thus imposed on the world as a son and heir to honour of the — House, is no son and heir. There were strange doings in that house, if report speaks truth. If this story be true (and that there is some truth in it I do believe), many persons will suffer shame and loss. It seems Croft, the man who attended poor Princess Charlotte in her confinement, was the only person in the secret, and was sent for from London to Paris to attend the Duchess of — when this duke, or, rather, no duke, was born; and this man has lately shot himself; which some persons have attributed to his evil conscience. Lord — would then be duke, were his story proved true. He is coming to Rome, it seems, and, it is supposed, to extract the truth out of the duchess: *cosa difficile assai*, unless it be true that she is turned Catholic out of love for Cardinal G—i, and that fear compels her to make a clear conscience. Among other English news, I heard to-day that Lady Louisa E—e, Lord A—'s sister, has run away from her husband. This shocks me, for I knew her intimately. She loved her husband dearly, passionately, when I knew her; and nothing was wanting to their felicity except children. It is horrid to think of crime without any excuse to palliate it—and where is this poor lady's excuse? who forsook the man of her choice, and one who seemed tenderly attached to her, and with whom she had lived for twenty years! 'Lord A— is dead: this is even a still more fearful event; for, from all I have heard, he was little prepared to die. In a letter I received to day from Lady

"* * * Poor Lady E— had one child, the offspring of her illicit love, which compensated to her for the disgrace she incurred by forsaking her husband. Her whole heart was set upon her little one. It was a very beautiful child; and Sir Thomas Lawrence made a transcript of its early loveliness on canvas. This portrait, 'The Child and Flowers,' is one of the most celebrated, and justly so, of his productions; but that awful curse (one which, because no longer spoken from the Mount with thunderings and

—, who was an intimate friend of his, she tells me the following curious particulars relative to his end. 'One morning, when he met Lady A—— at breakfast, he said, 'You know I am no coward, not afraid of ghosts or such idle fancies; but if I were to live a thousand years, I would not pass such a night over again, or see such sights as I saw last night.' A short time before his death he also said to his wife, 'You think I am quite well; but I tell you I am not—I am dying.' And when his physicians had held a consultation about his health, Lord A. charged them to tell him their exact opinion, and they did so, informing him that his life was certainly in imminent danger. He did not appear at all agitated, but ordered his coach and four, with outriders, and went out driving. Some say, that as Lord A. was lifted out of his carriage on his return home, he died; others, that he lived through the night; but, altogether, adds Lady —, I never heard a more awful account of the close of a life. I hear Dr. H——y* implored Lord A. to see him, and permit him to talk on religious matters; but he obstinately refused the request. No one knows what was the disease of which Lord A. died. Sir T. Lawrence's expression to a friend was, 'I looked for Lord A—— in his arm-chair, and could not see him, he was so shrunk.' I regret Lord A——'s decease, for the sake of my Lady —, to whom he was very kind; and also he was friendly to the unhappy Princess of Wales."

Here is a precious *mull* of scandal; and the next letter resumes the first of these infamous stories.

"I have heard nothing more about the D—— story, except that the mother and son (if such they are) appear to be living on very happy terms, and the black story is said to be hushed up by a promise on the part of the duke, that he will never marry, or pretend to present an heir. What an agreeable compact for his grace! I heard a great deal of the first duchess from a man of business, to whom she was frequently indebted for assistance in pecuniary matters. He gave me a curious autograph of hers, which I copy and send for your amusement. It makes one marvel to think how a high-born lady could ever lay herself under such disgraceful obligations. The duke always behaved to her with the greatest kindness and generosity; but then, to be sure, he knew she knew his peccadilloes; so it was, *Tais-toi, je sçais; tais-toi, je sçais*, that made them bear with one another. What a disgraceful bargain! yet it is one very frequently made by great folks. Here is the duchess's letter.

"(COPY.)

"(Dated London, 18th Dec. 1779.

"Mr. D—— having lent me two thousand six hundred and fifty pounds, I do hereby promise to pay him two hundred and fifty pounds every three months, at the usual quarter days, and continue to pay that sum quarterly to him or his heirs (allowing five per cent interest, and five per cent for insurance of my life per annum), until principal, interest, and insurance, shall be fully paid.

(Signed) "G—— D——."

"My agreement is, that in case the duchess smoke, is unheeded, I will visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, was executed in this instance; for the child of her heart, the pledge of Lady E——'s unhalloved love, was taken from her. Very grievous to the bereaved mother was this dispensation! but for the little one so early called, whilst yet an angel in purity of heart, the summons was, perhaps, ordained in mercy."

* Now Archbishop of C——y, formerly tutor in Lord A.'s family."

does not pay me two hundred and fifty pounds quarterly, that I shall acquaint the Duke of D—— with this transaction; and her grace has promised, in case of her death or other accidents, to leave in writing a request that I may be paid, as I have lent her the money to relieve her from play debts, under a solemn promise that she will not play in future.

(Signed) "J. D——."

"This is a very curious letter, and a melancholy record of the folly of this great lady, who was one of the best-hearted persons in the world. I have often heard it told of her, that if she had money set apart for pleasure, or for the payment of debts, and that some individual came to her in pecuniary distress, she would always relieve him or her, and leave her own difficulties unprovided for. Oftentimes she was wrong in so doing. One must be just before one is generous; but it is impossible not to be charmed by the kindly impulse which made her, without a moment's hesitation, shield another from distress. Alas! it is frequently thus. Those who are amiable are often not estimable; yet, I fear I lean to the former, with a weak partiality, for which I have repeatedly blamed myself. Of course, the D—— family would be much annoyed if they knew such a document was in existence; and what a Jew the lender in this transaction must have been!"

Would our readers like a companion piece?—here it is, as a "Note by the Editor."

"Lady —'s reign of power over K[ing] G[eorge] IV. continued till his death, though it is said he was weary of her, and was aware of her rapaciousness; but this not until he was far advanced in that period of life when a man is averse to exertion or change in his domestic circle, and would rather bear an evil than combat with it. Lady —, however, was obliged to have recourse to great tyranny, it is said, to maintain her full influence, and exercised it over him by excluding from the king's presence every individual except her own * * *, amongst whom was Sir W—— K——, the cleverest person in the small circle who formed his majesty's intimate society; but he went hand in hand with Lady —, otherwise he would never have been suffered to remain so near the royal person. Sir W. K. first attracted the king's notice by one of those fortunate chances which lead some men at once up the steep of fame or courtly favour, which others toil in vain to reach, their whole lives. Perhaps the bribe to secrecy (about the papers he found in a hackney coach) which he accepted, was a mean bargain on his part; but it must be allowed it was a great trial, a striking alternative, to a human being, to be at once raised to dignities and honour, or to miss both probably for life, and live and die an insignificant individual. To be the king's right hand man! There are few would hesitate, especially if the bargain only affected a nicety of honour, and did not require any great sacrifice of virtue. Sir W. K. bit at the k——'s proposal, and became a favourite. All such, it is proverbial, are more abused than any other race of men from envy; and, perhaps, Sir W. K. received an undue share of calumny; but there is one anecdote, too well authenticated to allow a doubt of its veracity. When G—— IV. was on his death-bed, he commanded that servant of his to do his bidding, which was as follows:—to ask Lady — * to give any information she could as to his majesty's late wife, Queen Caroline, and that if she would make known what she knew to her disadvantage, Lady —

* Lady Charlotte Bury, of course.—*Ed. L. G.*

was given to understand that she might ask 'any thing of the dying monarch, and he would give it her.' Lady — was not like the maiden who demanded the head of a fellow creature, and she scorned to receive the price of blood, which any reward she might have accepted for information against the deceased Princess of Wales would, in a moral point of view, have been. The k——, and the servant who did his bidding, were alike treated as they merited to be. But this is a true story, and one which does — no credit.

"Lady —'s love of gain is said to have been insatiable; and it was reported that whenever the king gave her jewels, her reply was—'Sire, I cannot wear these ornaments unless your majesty gives my daughter the same, to silence scandal.' Thus did she obtain a double quantity of valuable gifts. It seems incredible that any man, not an idiot, or reduced to a state of second childhood, should be so deceived by a designing avaricious woman; yet so it is—thousands of men besides K—— G—— have been similarly gulled, and if, occasionally, he, or other men in the same circumstances, see clearly for a moment, they are quickly blindfolded again by the cunning arts of their mistress: and it is best, perhaps, when a man has long been cheated, that he should be spared the pain of discovering his household god to be a thing of vile metal.

* Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

is a trite quotation, but very applicable to such a state of things as this, and it is as well that G—— IV. should have ended his days in ignorance of Lady —'s conduct. It is curious to observe the inconsistencies in human character, the strange amalgamation of right and wrong, that is found in every heart. The king was accustomed to go to a private chapel with his mistress, Lady —. What a mockery, what a disrespect to the King of Kings—to bow the knee to Him beside * * *. Yet this fact has been told of the deceased monarch, and it adds another trait whereby his character may be judged—giving evidence, too, of a peculiarity which characterises all his relatives, especially the male portion of them. The feeling I allude to is one that may almost redeem a thousand errors—a sincere respect for religion and its ordinances. But though in G—— IV.'s case, it is to be feared, for a length of time at least, his attendance at the house of God was merely a habit and for form's sake, yet it is satisfactory to think that, like many of his family, 'he died the death of the righteous;' and when his mistress was employed packing up all the articles of value she could remove, the king was lifting up his thoughts in prayer. There is infinite mercy in the Supreme Judge, and on that hope, the monarch, like the meanest of his fellow creatures, may have rested with complacency when the king of terrors assailed him. Lady — was compelled to relinquish many crown jewels which were known to be in her possession; but the late K——, W—— IV., in consideration of the honesty with which the lady returned the gems, begged her to keep an amethyst, of immense value, which had been found in Charles I.'s tomb when it was opened, and which, when Princess Charlotte died (it having been given her royal highness by the regent, her father) Prince Leopold returned to George IV. Thus, to the last, Lady — was kindly dealt with; yet it would not seem as if the riches she amassed as the price of sin gave her peace or pleasure. She lives in retirement, it is said not of a happy kind, and is oppressed with illness. Her colleague, Sir W. K., is deceased: and, when she is gone, the whole of

that courtly circle will be as though it had never existed. It is a curious coincidence that both the persecutor and the persecuted should thus meet the same fate; for George IV., and all that pertained to him, are as entirely swept away as every thing is that concerned his unhappy queen."

With this we conclude—not at all sorry that we have plumed the eagle wing on which so much of these immortal scandals fly; for it would have been to be guilty of as much base hypocrisy as that which we reprobate had we pretended that we had the power to conceal them; and of what value, then, would have been the wish, if we had entertained it? And as for the miserable cant of reluctance, of propriety, of morality, of virtue, and of religion, we are too intensely disgusted with it in this work to imitate so hideous an example by mingling our reflections with the prurient and unprincipled details of vice and infamy.

Welsted's Arabia.
[Second notice.]

WE have much pleasure in continuing our review of this interesting work, and resume our descriptive extracts.

"Last night's heavy rain has filled the hitherto dry beds of all the streams; and now, having overflowed their banks, they are rushing with much impetuosity towards the sea. We easily crossed all these on our camels; but, in several places, the poor asses, driven before us, lost their footing in the violence of the current, and were in imminent danger of perishing. Every part of the road being flooded, we, in consequence, soon lost all traces of the track; and, after floundering about until we were all covered with mud, I prevailed on old Ali Ibn Megati to cross over to the sea-beach. The peasants we met were all, however, in high glee at the prospect of a plentiful harvest, and the abundant pasturage which would now very shortly be afforded to their flocks. It is, indeed, most astonishing to witness the change a single shower produces on the face of this country. The most arid and sandy districts become, with others more promising, completely clothed with a light grass, which, for a time, wholly changes the appearance of the country; but this, unfortunately, is of brief duration. The dews at night afford nourishment for a time; but the heat of the sun's rays soon predominates, and, in a week or ten days, all becomes parched and arid as before."

"The date-trees on this coast form a continuous grove to Khurfakán, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles; and the Arabs have a saying, that a traveller may proceed the whole distance without ever losing their shade. Dates form the principal export from Omán, large quantities being taken to India, where a considerable share is consumed in making the government arrack. The middle classes of the Mussulman and Hindoo population are very partial to them. The best are brought from Basrah and Bahrein; those from Omán being classed next in excellence. There are several methods of preserving them. Some are simply dried, and then strung on lines; others, which is the usual plan, are packed in baskets. Notwithstanding their great number, every tree has its separate owner, and disputes between the relations of those who die intestate are, in consequence, very frequent."

"The beach was almost entirely composed of fragments of most superb shells, and I picked up several very beautiful specimens. At 3-30 we arrived at Suik, and found the Sheikh ab-

sent, looking for the Wahhabis, who, it had been reported, were then in the neighbourhood; but we were most hospitably received by the Sheikh's wife, who had a house and every other accommodation very soon prepared for us. The orders of this lady (of whom more anon) were much to the point. "You will please those gentlemen," said she to her slaves who were sent to attend us, "and let them want nothing, or look to your heads." We accordingly received every luxury which the Sheikh's kitchen could afford.

"In general, professed carriers, among the Bedowins, are a cheating, lying, avaricious race; yet have they good qualities, among which may be noticed a thorough detestation of petty theft. I never lost the most trifling article of my baggage, but have frequently known them seek for any missing article with far more anxiety than I felt respecting it; and in fetching wood, water, and other similar duties, when we halted, they were usually very obliging."

It has never occurred to me that the reader would consider their merits and demerits otherwise than abstractedly, and not as furnishing a national portraiture, which, in the instance I have just given, would be as unjust as if an estimate of the English character were formed from its hackney or stage coachmen."

Arriving at the town of Inán, the Sheikh proved surly and inhospitable, and what was worse, a body of Wahhabis were there; and, between the two, our travellers were only too fortunate to escape on their return with their lives saved. By promptitude and changing their route, they got off with some trifling losses, and again reached the coast unscathed. We have a complete account of the Pirate Coast, to which we must refer our readers. The pearl fishery is also described, but our limits now warn us to be brief, however interesting the matter.

"The pearl-bank extends from Sharja to Biddulph's Group. The bottom is of shelly sand and broken coral, and the depths vary from five to fifteen fathoms. The right of fishing on the bank is common, but altercations between rival tribes are not unfrequent. Should the presence of a vessel of war prevent them from settling these disputes on the spot, they are generally decided on the islands where they land to open their oysters. In order to check such quarrels, which, if permitted, would lead to general confusion, two government vessels are usually cruising on the bank. Their boats are of various sizes, and of varied construction, averaging from ten to fifty tons. During one season it is computed that the island of Bahrein furnishes, of all sizes, three thousand five hundred; the Persian coast, one hundred; and the space between Bahrein and the entrance of the Gulf, including the Pirate Coast, seven hundred. The value of the pearls obtained at these several ports is estimated at forty lacs of dollars, or four hundred thousand pounds. Their boats carry a crew varying from eight to forty men; and the number of mariners thus employed at the height of the season is rather above thirty thousand. None receive any definite wages, but each has a share of the profits upon the whole. A small tax is also levied on each boat by the Sheikh of the port to which it belongs. During this period they live on dates and fish, of which the latter are numerous and good; and to such meagre diet our small presents of rice were a most welcome addition. Where polygamy abound they envelope themselves in a white garment; but in general, with the exception of a cloth

around their waist, they are perfectly naked. When about to proceed to business, they divide themselves into two parties, one of which remains in the boat to haul up the others who are engaged in diving. The latter having provided themselves with a small basket, jump overboard, and place their feet on a stone, to which a line is attached. Upon a given signal this is let go, and they sink with it to the bottom. When the oysters are thickly clustered, eight or ten may be procured at each descent; the line is then jerked, and the person stationed in the boat hauls the diver up with as much rapidity as possible. The period during which they can remain under water has been much overrated; one minute is the average, and I never knew them, but on one occasion, to exceed a minute and a half. Accidents do not very frequently occur from sharks, but the sawfish (the *Antiguorum* of Linnaeus) is much dreaded. Instances were related to me where the divers had been completely cut in two by these monsters, which attain, in the Persian Gulf, a far larger size than in any other part of the world where I have met with them. As the character of this fish may not be familiar to the general reader, I will add a few words in the way of description. They are of an oblong rounded form, their head being somewhat flattened from the fore part, and tapering more abruptly towards the tail. They usually measure from thirteen to fifteen feet in length, being covered with a coriaceous skin, of a dark colour above, but white beneath. The terrific weapon from whence they derive their name is a flat projecting snout, six feet in length, four inches in breadth, armed on either side with spines resembling the teeth of a shark. Diving is considered very detrimental to health, and, without doubt, it shortens the life of those who much practise it. In order to aid the retention of the breath, the diver places a piece of elastic horn over his nostrils, which binds them closely together. He does not enter the boat each time he rises to the surface, ropes being attached to the side, to which he clings until he has obtained breath for another attempt. As soon as the fishermen have filled their boats, they proceed to some of the islands with which the bank is studded, and there, with masts, oars, and sails, construct tents. They estimate the unopened oysters at two dollars a hundred.† Familiar with water from their youth, the natives are very expert; and the time they will remain upon it, as well as the distance they can swim, would sound incredible to European ears. There are well-attested cases of individuals who, without rest, have swam more

* "This was in the presence of the British resident, Col. Stanus. One man of some hundreds present, for a reward of a few dollars, remained one minute and fifty seconds. In Ceylon they rarely exceed fifty seconds."

† "Of the several duties assigned to the Indian navy, that of cruising on the pearl-banks is by far the most harassing and unpleasant. It is admitted by those who are well qualified to judge, that the heat of the atmosphere in the Persian Gulf during the warm season is not surpassed by any other spot in the known world. The nights being short, neither earth nor sea has time to cool. Even when on the horizon, the sun is sufficiently warm to be disagreeable; the sailors say it rises red-hot; and a few minutes afterwards the intensity of its beams elevates Fahrenheit's thermometer ten degrees. From this period until about eleven in the forenoon, when the sea-breeze sets in, the heat is almost intolerable. Under double coverings, their heads not unfrequently bound with wet cloths, the seamen are seen lying on the deck, or stretched along the gunwale, looking for the first welcome indication of the breeze, absolutely panting for breath. Without the smallest exertion, a copious perspiration streams from every pore. Water increases, instead of allaying thirst; the skin is in such a state from irritation that no clothes can be endured, and the slightest movement, by causing it to crack, is accompanied with great pain."

than seven miles. In 1827 we were cruising in the honourable company's sloop, Ternate, on the pearl-banks. Whilst becalmed, and drifting slowly along with the current, several of the officers and men were looking over her side at our Arab pilot, who had been amusing himself in diving for oysters. After several attempts, his search proved unsuccessful. 'I will now,' said he, 'since I cannot gather oysters, dive for and catch fish.' All ridiculed the idea. He went down again, and great was our astonishment to see him, after a short time, rise to the surface with a small rock-fish in either hand. His own explanation of the feat was, that as he seated himself at the bottom, the fish came around and nibbled at his skin. Watching an opportunity, he seized and secured his prey by thrusting his thumb and fore-finger into their expanded gills."

The notices of the camel, and of the native love for these animals, are curious and entertaining. Lieutenant Wellsted doubting the extent of the latter, his guide put it to the proof by wishing that his camel's leg should be broken, to an Arab whom they met; and, notwithstanding the explanation of the cause, this salute had nearly involved both parties in strife and blood.

"The camel of Arabia has only a single hump, which is round and fleshy, whilst the animal continues in good condition. No sooner, however, does he begin to feel the inroads of famine than a very remarkable change takes place. By a singular provision of nature, an absorption of this excrescence supplies the place of other nourishment; nor does the body exhibit any considerable diminution of bulk, until little more of the hump remains except its frame-work of bones and muscles. Such is the universal report given by the Bedowins, whose ample means of observation entitle their opinions to respect. Whilst young they are pretty-looking animals, but when aged and over-worked they generally lose their hair, and become very unsightly objects. In general they have a clean sleek coat, usually of a light brown colour, with a fringe of dark hair along the neck; but this covering in the Arabian, or Desert camel, is less profuse than in that of Upper Asia, which is better adapted to the climate of those regions. In Arabia I have occasionally seen one of these animals perfectly black; but the Bishyreen camel, on the Nubian coast, is quite white. The eye of the camel resembles that of the gazelle; it is large, dark, soft, and prominent, and retains its peculiar brilliancy under the fiercest glare of the sun and sand. Its feet are large and spreading, and covered at the lower part with a rough, flexible skin, well adapted to a dry soil, but they soon fail them in wet or slippery places. Neither is the camel better pleased with a loose sandy soil than other animals; it is a hard but fine gravelly plain in which he delights; although, provided they are rough, he can ascend the steepest and most rugged paths with the same facility and secureness of footing as a mule. Camels bear a high price in Omán. I have known one hundred and forty dollars paid for one. Depth of chest and largeness of barrel constitute their chief excellencies. From thirty to fifty dollars is, however, their average price.

"Authorities differ as to the period the camel can endure thirst. Buffon mentions five days as an extraordinary instance; Tavernier, a good authority, nine; but it appears that camels, like several other ruminating animals, when fed on succulent herbage, do not require water; and a friend, who has had ample op-

portunities of judging, assures me that he once travelled from Baghdad to Damascus, a journey of twenty-five days, without the camels once drinking—a sufficiency of moisture being afforded by the abundant vegetation there found at every stage. Notwithstanding its patience and other admirable qualities, the camel is gifted with but little sagacity; nor does it appear to be capable of forming any strong attachment to its master, although they frequently do so to one of their own kind with which they have long been accustomed to travel. In protracted desert journeys the camel appears fully sensible that his safety consists in keeping close to the caravan; for, if detained behind, he never ceases making strenuous efforts to regain it. A recent traveller represents the camel as a peaceful, quiet animal. He says that 'they eat with a sort of regularity and order, a little at a time; and that, if either of them left his place, his companion appeared gently to reprove him, which made the other to feel his fault, and return to it again.' On the contrary, I should say, they are the most quarrelsome brutes in existence. After the hardest day's journey, no sooner is the baggage removed than the attention of the driver is constantly required to keep them from fighting; the 'gentle reprovals' being ferocious bites and lacerations of each other's ears."

A separate chapter, which concludes his first volume, gives the particulars of a perilous trip among the Dyabi Arabs, in the neighbouring province of Hydrámut, on the south coast of Arabia, which Lieutenant Wellsted undertook to inspect the interesting ruins of Nakab el Haja, probably an ancient station, when the trade of India took this route to Egypt. These noble remains, with others on the same route, yet unvisited, and their inscriptions, deserve the utmost attention. We agree with the author in thinking that they may greatly elucidate Sabæan researches, and, probably, lead to the determination of the questions connected with the lost Himyaritic dialect, one of the two, the other being the Kufic, in which the Koran was originally promulgated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Illustrations of the History and Practices of the Thugs, &c. 8vo. pp. 475. London, 1838. Allen and Co.

In several *Literary Gazettes* recently published, we condensed the account of the Thugs brought forward by the "Edinburgh Review," and added further information on the subject derived from other sources, so as to furnish a tolerably complete view of this extraordinary combination and system of crime. The present volume enters more at length into the details, and describes the proceedings of government for the suppression of Thuggee, and is, altogether, a very remarkable statement, well meriting the perusal of the curious in the annals of guilt, which shew how far the perversion of human nature may be carried.

Works of Jeremy Bentham, Part I. 8vo. pp. 288. Double columns. Edinburgh, 1838. Tait; London, Simpkin and Marshall; Dublin, Cumming.

UNDER the superintendence of his executor, Dr. Bowring, but by a compiler who signs the general preface as "W. W., Glasgow," we have here the commencement of a complete edition of the works of the celebrated Jeremy Bentham. A fine head of the old man, engraved from Pickersgill's portrait, is prefixed. The works themselves are too well known to require comment from us.

Anglo-India, Social, Moral, and Political: being a Collection from the "Asiatic Journal." 3 vols. London, 1838. Allen and Co.

A VERY pleasant and intelligent collection of papers, which have previously adorned and enriched the pages of the "Asiatic Journal." The work supplies many Indian traits, and much information; with which the general reader may agreeably beguile the occasional hour for months to come.

Burke's History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, Nos. XIV. and XV. 8vo. London, 1838. Colburn.

Two interesting and excellent Nos. added to this work, which will be completed in one other No.

The Counting House Manual; or, the Principles and Practice of Double Entry, &c. by Donald Taylor, Merchant. Pp. 260. (Glasgow, Robertson; London, Simpkin and Marshall).—This is a very good work, clear and explicit; we should think no mistake possible with books kept on such a system.

The Pulpit, Vol. XXXI. Pp. 526. (London, Sherwood).—Another excellent selection of able and eloquent discourses by popular living preachers.

The Dublin Journal of Medical Science, &c. &c. No. XXXVI. (Dublin, Hodges and Smith; London, Longman and Co.).—The present Number contains an interesting article of rupture of an aneurism, in which the common carotid was tied near its origin from the innominate. The early diagnosis of this case appears to be imperfect. Mr. O. B. Bellingham, in a paper on the subject, informs us that the trichocephalus dispar, instead of being attendant upon cholera, as certain Neapolitan reports had lately led us to infer, is very common in the human intestines. Dr. Griffin sends some interesting medical problems. The scientific intelligence wants method and arrangement.

A Treatise on the Employment of Certain Methods of Friction and Inhalation in Consumption, Asthma, and other Affections, by John Prescott Holmes, Esq. 8vo. pp. 120. (London, Samuel Holdsworth).—This is a medical treatise upon St. John Long's mode of practice, yet it is not a strictly professional work. The publication of cases in the manner in which they are here introduced, does not belong to the medical ethics of one who wishes to stand high in his profession.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TIMES OF GEORGE IV.

SINCE our last Number was published, Colonel Webster's letter has excited much attention; and the following has appeared in the "Times" on the subject:—

"To the Editor.

"Sir,—As you have published in your paper of to-day a letter of mine which appeared in the *Literary Gazette* of last Saturday, you will oblige me by inserting the enclosed.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"HENRY WEBSTER, Lieut.-Colonel.

"31 Upper Brook Street, Jan. 8."

"Great Marlborough Street, Jan. 8.

"Sir,—In answer to your application to me for the name of the author of the 'Diary of the Times of George IV.,' I beg to say that the authorship of this work is a matter which has been intrusted to me under the veil of secrecy; but, as I am able to declare to you that the writer is a lady, I trust you will see no necessity for urging any further disclosure.—I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

"HENRY COLBURN.

"P.S. It is a fact that, without having the opportunity of seeing more than a few pages of its contents, I paid 1000*l.* for the copyright of the entire manuscript.

"To Lieut.-Col. Webster, Upper Brook Street."

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

JANUARY 8. Sir John Barrow, V. P. in the chair.—Members were elected, and candidates proposed. Extracts from several papers were read. 1st. 'A Report of the Exploring Expeditions to the North-western Coast of Australia, under the command of Lieutenants Grey and Lushington, dated Cape Town, Oct. 10, 1837.' The party composing

this expedition, which quitted England in July last, on board her majesty's ship *Beagle*, touched at the Canary Islands, when the officers ascended the Peak of Tenerife, and visited some of the caves in that island. Steering thence to Bahia, in Brazil, they procured many useful vegetables and plants; among others, the South American yam, which they conveyed to the Cape of Good Hope, where, owing to the uncertain quality of the potato crops, they may eventually become of great service to the colony, particularly in supplying whalers. Arriving at the Cape on the 21st September, they freighted a schooner of about 170 tons, and completed their party to eleven in number, one being a sailor, formerly employed in the survey of the Coast of Australia, under Captain King, and well acquainted with the watering places. Mr. Grey writes, on the 10th October, "We bear with us to the shores of New Holland all the most useful plants of the tropical parts of South America; among others, the seed of the Cotton plant; also a collection of seeds from the island of Tenerife and the Cape of Good Hope. The vessel that brings our horses from the island of Timor, shall have every spare inch of room filled up with young cocoa-nut-trees, and other fruit-trees from that island; every useful animal which is likely to succeed in the northern parts of Australia, such as goats, sheep, the Timor pony, &c. shall be introduced by us into the country, and, whenever we can possibly spare them, be turned loose in situations fitted for them. I must confess that I indulge the most sanguine expectations that, by the adoption of these measures, this expedition may be the means of conferring the greatest benefit upon the natives of Australia, even, probably, of altogether changing their habits and customs, and gradually preparing the way, and fitting them to receive a far greater degree of civilisation than they have hitherto shewn themselves capable of doing. I have done the utmost to inspire all the party with a spirit of enthusiasm in this adventure, and, I trust, I have so far succeeded in the attempt."—2dly. "On the Ascent of the Peak of Demawund, in Sept. 1837, by Mr. Taylor Thompson, with Remarks by W. Ainsworth, Esq." This mountain is situated about forty miles E.N.E. of Tehran, in lat. 35° 50' N., 52° 10' E., nearly, it may be considered, as the culminating point of the Persian Taurus; and, although within so short a distance of the usual residence of the various European embassies in Persia, hitherto no account of its ascent, nor any measurement of its height, is on record. It may be premised that the mean height of the mercury in the barometer at Tehran is 26 inches, indicating an elevation for that city of about 3800 feet above the level of the sea. "Starting, then, on the 4th of September from this point as a base," says Mr. Thompson, "I found the village of Jajerid 900 feet above Tehran, thermometer at 81°; proceeding onwards to Usk, on the left bank of the river Heraz, and at the foot of the mountain, I delivered my letters and presents to Abbas Koli Khan, chief of Larajan, then to Gernah, the highest village on this side of the mountain, where I was provided with four guides, four days' provisions, and every thing necessary for the ascent. Sept. 8, I ascended for two hours beyond Gernah, when the weather, which had long been sultry and lowering, broke into heavy rain with thunder, and forced us to take refuge under a ledge of rock for twenty-four hours. At daylight the following morning, we found the snow within a few feet of our bivouac, but the weather was fine, and, in spite

of the cold and our wetting, we started in good spirits for the summit. I had not, however, ascended above one hour, when two of the guides refused to go a step further, and we were, consequently, obliged to abandon our extra provisions and clothing. After much exertion and great fatigue, we succeeded by sunset in reaching the summit of the mountain, and were glad to take shelter in a cave on the east side, within a few feet of the top of the cone, which is composed of soft rock-sulphur, and dug out merely with a piece of stick, and carried down in bags on the shoulders of the natives, who are in the habit of gathering it. Long before reaching the summit, the mountain was enveloped in clouds, which prevented any observations except on the barometer; and a piercing cold wind blew from the Caspian Sea, only about 45 miles distant to the north. The cave in which we slept was heated to upwards of 76 of Fahrenheit by the sulphuric vapours which issued from the rock, and, stripping off our goat-skin stockings and shoes, which were saturated with snow, we covered our feet with the hot dust and lay down to sleep. In the morning our clothes were nearly wet through with the snow that had drifted in at the entrance, which we were obliged to leave open for fear of suffocation; even as it was, we all awoke with severe headaches and sickness. The following morning was fine, but the intense cold and the want of our warm clothing obliged us to retrace our steps into a more genial clime. The geological formation of Demawund, from Gernah upwards, for 1000 feet, seems to be a bed of sandstone, of the coal formation, with one seam of coal: above this, limestone occurs with a thickness of about 1200 feet; then greenstone coloured with iron to within 1000 feet of the summit, which is a deposit of pure sulphur. Of the volcanic nature of the mountain there can be little doubt: its crater-like summit and cone of sulphur; the heated air and steam issuing from its crevices; the hot springs at its base; the scorie and pumice-stone found upon its side, all indicate, not only that it was formerly the mouth of an extensive volcanic district, but that its fires are not yet extinguished. The result of our barometric measurements was, that Usk was found to be 5800 feet; the village of Demawund, 6200 feet; Gernah, 6600 feet; and, at the Peak, the barometer marked 15.05 inches, attached thermometer, 56° Fahr.; indicating an elevation of 10,500 feet above the city of Tehran, and 14,300 feet above the level of the ocean. The geological results of this expedition," observes Mr. Ainsworth, "possess great interest, by establishing the existence of a pseudo-volcano in the central districts of Western Asia, and ally themselves to the observations which Baron Humboldt has made upon the evidences of volcanic action, which he has traced throughout the great continent of Asia. It is a remarkable fact, that throughout the districts of Taurus, Amanus, Kurdistan, and the Persian Appenines, in which I have travelled, I have never yet met with rocks of the secondary series. The absence of every member, between the chalk and the primary formations, is one of the most remarkable features in the geology of Western Asia; and, from the phenomenon obtaining so very generally, I have little doubt that the sandstone which occur at the base of Demawund belong to the supra-cretaceous or tertiary series; and are either sandstone with lignite coral, belonging to the plastic clay (the ostracite sandstone of Kupffer), or, what is equally probable, belong to the terrain marno-charbonneux of Brongniart.

As there are no fossils transmitted, it is impossible to determine the age of the superimposed limestone. The sulphur deposits of Mosul, in Mesopotamia, and also in Kurdistan, are both of them in the Cerithia limestone, corresponding to the London clay; but the sulphur formation of Demawund appears to be of even a more recent date."—3dly, "On the Emigration of the Border Colonists, from the Journal of a Visit to the Chief Moselekatsé, in South Africa, in May 1837, by Captain Harris, E. I. C. Engineers." The abandonment of the Cape Colony, by the old Dutch inhabitants, has surely no parallel in the history of British colonial possessions. Partial emigrations are by no means uncommon; but here is an instance of a body of between five and six thousand persons, who have, with one accord, abandoned the land of their nativity and the homes of their forefathers, endeared to them by a thousand interesting associations, and have recklessly plunged into the pathless wilds of the interior, braving the perils of the wilderness, and many of them already in the vale of years, seeking out for themselves another dwelling-place in a strange and inhospitable soil. In 1834, several of the frontier farmers, who had heard much of the soil and capabilities of Port Natal, formed a large party, and with twelve wagons proceeded to explore the country. So well pleased were they with what they saw, that, immediately on the conclusion of the Kafir war, thirty families left the colony under the guidance of Louis Trichard. They proceeded across the Great River in a N.E. direction, skirting the mountain chain which divides Caffraria from Bechuana Land, intending, when they had cleared it, to turn to the eastward, and gain the neighbourhood of Port Natal. The features presented by this barrier are rugged and forbidding in the extreme, and, from the imperfect knowledge possessed by the emigrants of that section of Southern Africa, they were led by the course of the mountains far beyond the latitude of Port Natal, and found themselves in a fertile but uninhabited waste, lying between the 26th and 27th parallels of lat., but on the eastern bank of a large and beautiful river, which flows sluggishly through a level tract in a north-easterly direction, and is said to join the Oori or Simpopo, and discharge its waters into Delagoa Bay. As this country was abundantly watered, abounded with game, and afforded all the materials requisite for building, the journey of the emigrants was for the present discontinued. The example thus set was speedily followed; numerous parties with their flocks and herds crossed the Great River, dived into the very heart of the wilderness, and scattered themselves along the luxuriant banks of the Likwa, or Vaal river, until the country in advance should have been explored. About the end of May a party left the emigrant camp for the purpose of exploring to the north-eastward. They penetrated sixteen days' journey further than Louis Trichard's station at Zout-pans-berg, through a lovely, fertile, and unoccupied country, until they arrived within six days' journey of Delagoa Bay, where they found a friendly tribe of natives, whom they named the Knob-nosed Kafirs. Returning hence to their camp, they found it totally deserted; it had been attacked the day before by Moselekatsé, and twenty-eight of their number had been murdered. After this, and a second murderous attack, the migratory farmers fell back about five days' journey to the south side of the Vaal river: here, again, they were attacked by the Matabili, and lost 6000 head of cattle, and 40,000 sheep and goats. After which they

again fell back to the sources of the Modder river. Here they were reinforced by a strong body of emigrants; and Maritz, the chief, with a chosen body of men, marched to retaliate on the Matabili, and on the 17th January gained a bloody victory over them, in the valley of Mosoga, secured 7000 head of cattle and their own wagons. The news of this victory had an almost magical effect upon the Dutch colonists; large caravans were daily to be seen hurrying across the border, and flocking to the standard of their expatriated countrymen. By the most recent accounts, the united emigrants had advanced from Thaba Unchu in the direction of the Vaal river, and in May last, upwards of 1000 wagons and 1600 efficient men were assembled near the confluence of the branches of the Vet River. A commando, consisting of 500 farmers, was preparing to march to arrange matters with Moselekatsé, or completely to subvert his power; after which their journey towards Louis Tricard's position will be resumed. There the corner-stone of a city will be laid, and a new Amsterdam will rear its head in the very heart of the wilderness. Captain Alexander, who was present at the meeting, stated, that it was in his journey to the Chief Moselekatsé that Captain Harris had discovered and shot the very large and new species of antelope, of which Captain A. had taken charge and brought to this country from the Cape. He also mentioned that he had brought home with him a Dámara negro boy, who had performed his recent journey with him in South Africa.—Mr. Polack, lately returned from a residence of some years in New Zealand and in Madagascar, very civilly exhibited his sketch-book, containing various graphic portraits of the natives, and gave a detailed verbal description of the habits, manners, and trade of the New Zealanders.

ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.

SATURDAY, 6th January.—Mr. W. M. Higgins read an introductory paper relating to the accidental discovery of galvanism, or, as it is now called, Voltaic electricity, in 1791, by Galvani seeking experiments for truths to support a theory he had adopted, "that electricity was the cause of muscular action." The dissected frogs lying on the table near to an electrical machine in action, and the contraction of a limb by chancing to touch a nerve, led, as is well known, to the discovery of the wonderful power of voltaic electricity, mighty although yet in its infancy. Galvani, with the rapidity of a master mind, seized that singular result as favourable to his theory, and proceeded to investigate. At first he attributed the effect entirely to common electricity, but finding that the contractions were also produced when the animal was merely placed on an iron plate and touched with another metal, especially silver, he perceived there must be some other cause for the phenomena. After numerous experiments, he published the result of his inquiries, "Aloysii Galvani de Viribus Electricitatis in motu musculari Commentarius, Bononiæ, 1791." The experiments of Galvani were admirably adapted to encourage, if not to satisfy, the speculative physiological opinions of his day. They instantly, therefore, excited the attention of some of the most celebrated philosophers of Europe, amongst whom Mr. Higgins named Pfaff, Spallanzani, Dr. Valli, and Dr. Munro, and related their several views in support of, or at variance with, the theory of Galvani, dwelling upon those of Dr. Valli, as he had left a full account of the results he obtained. "Experiments on Animal Electricity with

their Application to Physiology, London, 1793." Although Dr. Valli's theory entitles him to but little regard, some of his experiments were useful in aiding the progress of the science. In 1793, Volta of Pavia, in a communication read before the Royal Society, expressed his entire dissent from all the theories that had been proposed to account for the physiological effects. Mr. Higgins ably followed and described the progressive experiments and reasonings of Volta, which produced in March 1800, the paper transmitted to Sir J. Banks, then President of the Royal Society, and published in their transactions. Of all Volta's papers this is, without doubt, the most important. In it he laid the foundation of his own imperishable honour, and of the science which bears his name. It was there he first described that instrument which, in his own words, "contains an inexhaustible charge, a perpetual action or impulse on the electric fluid," and which, whatever modifications it may receive, must ever be called the Voltaic battery. While upon this subject, we would suggest the incalculable advantage, the immense assistance to the progress of the science of electricity, the republication of the papers of Volta, of Faraday, and others, would afford, compiled from the stupendous and multifarious Transactions of the Royal Society.—The next paper was read by Mr. Sturgeon, being "An investigation into the cause of the fracture of jars during an electric discharge, and into the mode of protecting them." Experiments are frequently attempted, both in chemistry and electricity, which, unattended by accident, may lead to the most important results; but the breaking a retort, or a jar, in one moment defeats the hoped-for effect. The frequent misfortune of breaking jars by the discharge, and the consequent expense and trouble of fitting up new ones, Mr. Sturgeon stated, induced him to investigate the cause, and, if possible, to remedy the evil; and he was happy to say, that he had been enabled to accomplish his object to the utmost of his wishes. Mr. Sturgeon then described the various experiments, he had made with their results, his reasonings thereon, and the conclusions he drew. The latter, alone, and the consequent improvement in the arrangement of the jars, our limits will enable us to lay before our readers, as our province is to select the most instructive and practically useful, and convey it in the most concise and clear manner. Therefore, as the electric fluid in the interior of an intensely charged jar, indicates the greatest tendency to escape from the top of the lining, and as, by the present mode of fitting up jars, an explosion from that part of the lining to the wire probably takes place whenever the jar is discharged through good conducting media, it seemed the most natural method to lead the fluid by the nearest route, and dispense altogether with the wire and chain suspended in the axis of the jar. For this purpose, two slips of tinfoil were secured to the opposite sides of the jar, reaching from the upper edge of the lining to the cover, the under part of which is also covered with foil. This latter portion of foil communicated with the lower extremity of the wire which supports the ball, so that a complete and direct metallic connexion now existed between the top of the lining and the ball on the cover of the jar, and, therefore, no explosion in the interior of the jar could possibly take place. The result was, that every jar so fitted up has hitherto withstood the most severe trial. Mr. Sturgeon, for twelve years, has not broken, by a discharge, a single jar thus protected, al-

though during that period he had discharged, many hundreds of times, a battery of twelve jars intensely charged. Mr. Sturgeon has called the slips of tinfoil *protectors*; and he is firmly persuaded that the most extensive battery may, by this means, be perfectly protected. — Before the meeting adjourned, an announcement from the chair created a lively sensation and much interest; it was, that the committee had just received an important communication from Mr. Crosse, describing the process by which the insects had been called into existence, and other results of his experiments. The paper will be read at the next meeting of the Society.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

JAN. 1st. J. F. Stevens, Esq. in the chair.—Various donations of entomological works were announced, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors thereof. Several new members were balloted for, and elected. An exceedingly numerous collection of insects made in North America by Messrs. Doubleday and Foster, was exhibited by Mr. Hansom. Another very beautiful collection from Ceylon and India, collected by Colonel Whitchill, was also exhibited by the Rev. F. W. Hope. Mr. Raddon presented portion of a quantity of Cayenne pepper, which, notwithstanding its pungent taste, had been greatly injured by the *Anobium paniceum*, which feeds upon it. Mr. Shipster exhibited the nest of a trap-door spider, from South Australia, remarkable for the ingeniousness of its construction. Mr. Spence communicated a notice of a beneficial mode of collecting the wire-worm, which attacks turnips, by the employment of boys, and payment, at a small rate, for the insects per hundred; the plan had been found very successful in some parts of the country where it had been practised. The following memoirs were read: 'Description of a *Hybrid amerinthus*, with remarks on Hybridism in general,' by J. O. Westwood, secretary, and the commencement of a paper 'On the Use of the *Antenna* in Insects,' by G. Newport, Esq. A considerable discussion, in which Messrs. Yarrell, Hope, and others, joined, took place on the subject of hybridism. The secretary announced that the new part of the Transactions was ready for delivery to the members.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Saturday last, the Hulsean Prize for 1837 was adjudged to Henry Shepherd, of Clare Hall, for his dissertation on the following subject:—"To compare the evidence which Christians of the present age have for the truth of the Gospel with that which the first converts possessed."

The trustees, under the will of the Rev. John Hulse, have given notice, "that a premium of about one hundred pounds will this year be given for the best dissertation on the following subject:—"That a Revelation contains mysteries is no solid argument against its truth."—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

MR. CHILDREN in the chair.—Another section of Mr. Faraday's paper, entitled 'Experimental Researches in Electricity, eleventh series,' was read. We reserve the notes of this valuable paper, in order to present a full report of it when the reading shall have been concluded.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

MR. HALLAM in the chair.—Mr. C. R. Smith exhibited an ancient spear-head of brass, found in the bed of the Thames, near Kew Bridge; it was as perfect as it could have been at the time of its immersion. Mr. Rosser exhibited

some copies, made by rubbing, of monumental brasses in Gloucestershire, with an account. The facsimile of a grave-stone in the parish church of Abinghall, exhibited a country gentleman, his wife, and two youths, of the time of James I.; and, from the adjoining parish of Mitchel Deane, two female figures of the time of Edward IV. Mr. Delagard, of Exeter, communicated a historical account, accompanied by maps and ancient plans, of the canal at Exeter, the first locked canal ever made. There having been many disputes and legal proceedings relative to the navigation of the river Exe, and the removal of obstructions, a canal, with locks and sluices, was contracted for and commenced in the year 1663, and finished in about three years. The inventor of this new method of navigation, afterwards so material a feature in our inland commerce, was John Trew, a Glamorganshire man.

EGYPT: THE PYRAMIDS.

A RECENT letter from a friend at Alexandria (Nov. 27), thus speaks of very interesting discoveries in the Pyramids, which were brought under the notice of the Royal Society of Literature, at its November meeting, by Mr. Cullimore.—"You will, perhaps, before this, have seen the account of Colonel Vyse's discoveries at the Pyramids, which are very important to the knowledge and history of these monuments, and will, I have no doubt, occupy many pages of description, and many more pages of discussion, in your *Literary Gazette*. Nothing can surpass the liberality and spirit of this gentleman in the prosecution of these researches, and I hope the learned will give him all the credit he deserves; for, if it had not been for his enterprise, it is not probable that the world would, in our age, have had access to the tenth part of what is now laid open to the inspection of the traveller." Our friend adds, Dr. Bowring is here on a commission of commercial inquiry; and the regular communication by means of steam with India, will render Egypt a high road, make the country better known, and its position more clearly appreciated.

[As we only reported Mr. Cullimore's paper briefly, we are now induced to take it up to a measure of length more suited to its interest in Egyptian antiquities.]

The important discovery of a royal shield in a hermetically closed chamber of the great pyramid, hitherto supposed to contain no hieroglyphics whatever, was announced to the society in a communication from Col. Howard Vyse, read by Mr. Hamilton at the meetings of June 8 and 22; being that which Signor Rosellini had previously interpreted "Sensciufio," answering to the Sensaphis of Eratosthenes, and the second Suphis of Manetho's fourth dynasty of Memphites, to whom the raising of the great pyramid is ascribed in the copy of Eusebius, although referred to Saophis, or the first Suphis, in that of Africanus. This coincidence with Col. Vyse's subsequent discovery renders the interpretation one of the most remarkable in the whole range of hieroglyphic investigation. The place of this shield in the monumental succession of the kings, has, however, been hitherto an unresolved question, in consequence of it not having been observed in connexion with others whose chronological places are known; so that, although the index, whereby to determine the relative age of the great pyramid, compared with that of the great sculptured monuments of Egypt, (which are all referable to their relative ages by means of the royal shields which appear on them, and are

found catalogued in order of succession in the hieroglyphic tablets of Karnak and Abydos,) can alone be ultimately determined, was discovered, the part of the dial, or cycle of Pharaonic succession, was still wanting. The shield in question appears in an inscription from a tomb near the pyramid, which is given in the 27th Plate of Mr. Burton's "Excerpta Hieroglyphica," No. 3. It is given from the same source, among the unplaced kings of the 5th Plate of Mr. Wilkinson's "Materia," and likewise appears in the list of unplaced Memphite kings which Major Felix has produced from the inscriptions at Wady Magara, in his notes on hieroglyphics. It occupies a conjectural and unproved place in Signor Rosellini's tables of the Pharaohs, as that of the second successor of Menes, the founder of the monarchy, and of the ninety-fourth predecessor of Amos, the founder of the eighteenth dynasty, to which line the principal sculptured monuments belong. This assumed number of reigns would suppose an interval of nearly 3000 years between the age of the pyramids and that of the sculptured monuments, reduced to 800 years in Rosellini's tables, which thus suppose not more than eight or nine years for the average of the reigns. The purpose of Mr. Cullimore's communication was to refer this shield to its relative place in the hieroglyphic succession, whereby the age of the monument in which it is found, compared with those of the Egyptian temples, palaces, and obelisks, may be determined from contemporary evidence, independently of any question on the historical identification of the name. This he was enabled, in a great degree, to effect from unpublished notes which Mr. Lane, the Egyptian traveller, had placed in his hands, compared with data already before inquirers. Mr. Lane found an irregular truncated tomb, westward of the great pyramid, and outside the tombs which are regularly disposed with reference to that pile, a series of three royal shields attached to personages forming a procession, of which the first two were the same with that discovered in the great pyramid, and which Mr. Lane conceived might represent the two Suphises which are placed together by Manetho and Eratosthenes; this being the mode in which the successive kings are disposed in the series found in the Memnonium, the palace of Medinet Abou, and elsewhere. On another wall of the same tomb, appears the shield of the personage for whom it was probably constructed, accompanied by a second, being that which Signor Rosellini interprets Sciuso, or Suphis I., and places immediately before Sensciufio in his tables. Of the first-mentioned of these, the former three were manifestly the ancestors or predecessors; and, in harmony with this view, Mr. Lane pointed out the circumstance that the exterior tomb in which these remains appeared, is necessarily of a date posterior to that of the interior and regularly disposed tombs; whereas, these latter are necessarily posterior to the pyramid, with reference to which they are so disposed. Mr. Wilkinson likewise expresses the opinion, in his work on Thebes and Egypt, and also in his work just published, that none of these tombs are "anterior in date to the great pyramid, since this position is evidently regulated by the direction of that monument." With respect to the three first-mentioned shields, Mr. Cullimore discovered that the third in order was identical with the first in another series of these shields, which appear in an inscription from the tombs at the pyramids, given in the 27th Plate of Mr. "Burton's Excerpta,"

No. 5. The first of these is partially obliterated, but is found complete among Mr. Wilkinson's unplaced kings, accompanied by the other two shields; and likewise in Major Felix's unplaced list. A series of five shields preceding that occupant of the tomb, mentioned by Mr. Lane, was then detected; and of these, the first two were alike, and the same with that which appears in the great pyramid. Again, Mr. Cullimore found that the last of this series of five, was identical with that of the third predecessor of Osortasen I. (the author of the oldest referable sculptured monument), the former being the fourth shield of the primary line of Pharaohs of the tablet of Abydos, according to his, Mr. Cullimore's, restoration of the wanting portion of that tablet (*Transactions of the Society*, vol. ii. part ii.), and Mr. Wilkinson's tables of the Pharaohs, subsequently published in his work on Thebes and Egypt. A point of union between the Memphite and Theban successions being thus obtained, no difficulty remained in referring the shields of the former, admitting them to be those of sovereigns immediately succeeding each other, which there is no reason to doubt, to their contemporary places with reference to the latter; and it thus became nearly a point of proof that the two kings corresponding to the shield in the pyramid, if those of separate princes, belong to places collateral with those of the first in the tablet of Abydos, and of the immediate predecessor of the latter in the tablet of Karnak; and are hence those of the sixth and seventh contemporary Memphite predecessors of Osortasen I., or of the thirteenth and fourteenth contemporary predecessors of Amos and the eighteenth dynasty. It follows, that the pyramids are hereby brought within the limits of the monumental history of Egypt, and that the oldest of the three principal ones thus appears to be about six or seven generations anterior to the age of any other great dateable Egyptian edifice, in correspondence with the inference to be derived from the relative character and appearance of these piles, compared with those of the sculptured monuments, and with the age of the Shepherd domination, to which Herodotus attributes the two principal pyramids, when the Egyptian temples were closed, according to that historian and Manetho, and the sacred sculptures necessarily prohibited. It follows, likewise, whatever difficulty may exist as to the historical identification of the names,—a difficulty which is still in force regarding nearly every catalogued shield anterior to the reign of Amos and the eighteenth dynasty,—that the relative ages of that line, and of the Memphite series of Manetho and Eratosthenes—a hitherto unsolved problem—are determined by the above-mentioned point of union derived from contemporary records. Mr. Cullimore concluded by expressing his conviction that, as Mr. Lane's unpublished notes had furnished information which rendered the known results of the remarkable discoveries of Colonel Vyse available to the purposes of history, similar boons to the Egyptian world might be expected when the still unpublished treasures of Colonel Vyse,* Mr. Burton, and Mr. Hays, shall become available for the purposes of inquiry.

COPYRIGHT, &c.

THE following are now the rights of authors, artists, &c. in Prussia (alluded to in our last No.). By a law, promulgated at Berlin on the

* Colonel Vyse's work on the Pyramids, we rejoice to learn, is now preparing for publication, in a style of magnificence worthy of the subject.

18th ult., but dated June 11th, the authors of works of literature, the sciences, and the arts, in Prussia, are secured an exclusive privilege of publishing, multiplying, and copying them during the term of their natural lives; and the same privilege is extended to their representatives for a period of thirty years from the day of their deaths. Violations of this privilege are punishable respectively with fines of from fifty to 1000 thalers, and to a confiscation of the pirated copies. The same privileges and protection are granted to anonymous and pseudonymous authors for fifteen years, and to academies, universities, and other corporations, for thirty years, from the first publication of the works. Also, all persons printing and publishing sermons, delivered in churches, or lectures of professors, are deemed guilty of the same offence of piracy, and are liable to the same penalties. The following cases are not to be considered as piracies:—1. The reproduction of isolated passages from a work already printed. 2. The citation of isolated paragraphs, pieces of poetry, &c. in critical or historical literary works, or in collections for the use of schools. 3. Translations of printed works. Translations, however, are to be considered as piracies under the following circumstances, viz. Such as are made into German of a work published by a German author in any one of the dead languages; and when an author has published a work in several living languages at one and the same time, another is published in any or either of those languages in which it originally appeared. By subsequent provisions, the same protection is granted to the authors of works in geography, topography, natural history, and architecture, and other productions of a similar nature, and likewise to musical compositions. Further, all multiplications of paintings or drawings, by means of engravings on copper, steel, wood, stone, or other materials, are interdicted under the same penalties, and likewise of all casts or copies of works in sculpture. Another class forbids the publication of any works of art resembling originals, whether upon a larger or smaller scale than the originals, or under any other circumstances which may warrant their being considered as simple imitations of originals. All representations of dramatic works upon licensed theatres, without permission of their authors, are forbidden; and, if any such are made, the full receipts of the house, without any deduction for the expenses, and whether the piece is performed alone or in conjunction with others, are to be payable as a fine; two-thirds of which are to be paid to the author, and the other third to the fund for the benefit of the poor of the place in which the surreptitious performance is made. The new law is applicable to all literary, scientific, musical, and dramatic works, and productions of the arts already in existence: this law is to be applicable to works published in a foreign state, in so far as the rights established in that state are conferred equally by the laws of the said state to works published in Prussia.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; Phrenological, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 3 P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
Wednesday.—Geological, 8 P.M.; Society of Arts, 7 P.M.
Thursday.—Royal Society, 8 P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Numismatic, 7 P.M.
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Royal Asiatic, 2 P.M.; Harveian, 8 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.; Electrical, 7 P.M.

FINE ARTS. GRAPHIC SOCIETY.

THE first meeting this season took place at the Thatched House, on Wednesday, and if the full attendance of members and visitors, in spite of the weather, and the rich contributions of works of art by them, be taken as an earnest of the spirit with which its members are determined to support this most agreeable association, no season has been introduced so auspiciously. One collection of drawings of striking interest was that made by Lieut. Smyth, who accompanied the gallant Captain Back in his late perilous expedition: they are admirably drawn, and represent some of the dangers to which they were exposed with harrowing, but evident fidelity. Some of them will be engraved for the work upon this enterprise, which Mr. Murray, who kindly sent the drawings, has in the press. Many beautiful drawings by Turner, Stanfield, Cattermole, Brockedon, and others, filled folios or were framed round the room; there was, also, a fine collection of etchings by Rembrandt; folios of sketches by Mr. Brandard, Mr. Cope, and Mr. G. Barnard; Indian paintings on tale, and of drawings sent by Mr. Griffiths, the Rev. E. Coleridge, and Mr. Gastineau; some books of prints, splendid French works now in the course of publication, and a specimen of asphalte tessellated pavement, were sent by Mr. Decimus Burton; and four fine drawings by the late Mr. Williams, of Edinburgh, sent by Mr. George Basevi; these were only a part of the "feast furnished forth" at this interesting conversazione.

We are glad to see it announced by Messrs. Hodgson and Co. that Mr. Stanfield's beautiful Series of Sketches are to be exhibited in their rooms on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, and, at the same time, Mr. Parris's Portrait of the Queen, Mr. Turner's magnificent View of Venice, and Mr. Grant's very interesting picture of the Royal Hunt.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

NAE STAR WAS GLINTIN OUT ABOON.

Nae star was glintin out aboon,
The cluds were dark, and hid the moon;
The whistling gale was in my teeth,
And round me was the deep snaw wreath.
But on I went the dreary mile,
And sung right cantie a' the while:
I gae my plaid a closser fauld,
My hand was warm, my heart was bauld,
I did na heed the storm and cauld,

While ganging to my Katie.

But when I trod the same way back,
It seem'd a sad and waeft track;
The brae and glen were lone and lang,
I did nae sing my cantie sang.
I felt how sharp the sleet did fa',
And cou'd na face the wind at a';
Oh, sic a change! how cou'd it be,
I ken fu' weel, and sae may ye—
The sunshine had been gloom to me,
While ganging frae my Katie.

ELIZA COOK.

A SONG OF THE COAST.

DEAR Sheppy's isle I'll sing of thee!
For ne'er in softer mould
Was island, from the slimy sen,
Formed by the flood of old.

And still the Nores, the great and less,
Watch o'er their favoured child;
While envious sister isles confess
Earth's charms, in thee compiled.

Yes! mighty piles that round thee keep
A coast-guard night and day,
Can scarce prevent the saucy deep
From kissing thee away.

The very storms should sing thy praise,
If fate would crown my wishes:
But who can proper spirit raise
In silent fossil-fishes.

And natives of thy neighbouring seas
Should laud thee night and day;
But mute inglorious Miltons these,
Not theirs the poet's lay.

Then, let my song with praises swell,
Dear Sheppy's isle! and mark
How few have loved so long, so well,
As I, thine own mud-lark.

R. J.

DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—On Monday, Mr. Charles Kean, after much announcement, appeared here in the arduous trial-part of *Hamlet*, and very ably acquitted himself of the task. *Hamlet* is established by stage tradition, and no performer can strike out much of new that would be good; he will do well that follows the beaten track with discretion, and does not offend by attempts at innovation. Mr. Kean appears to us to have studied the character carefully, and the consequence is, that he embodies it not less effectively because temperately, and without overacting a single passage or situation. He has judiciously taken his own advice to the players; The philosophising Prince of Denmark, though frequently on the scene in positions of the deepest interest, as in the play scene, the scene in his mother's closet, the grave scene with Laertes, &c. &c. has few opportunities for those theatrical *coups* which tell so much on the general audience; and his representative must rather be content with eliciting as genuine, if not quite such tumultuous, applause, by the just recital of admirable soliloquies, and pointed delivery of sarcastic or moral dialogue. This Mr. Kean fairly earned by his performance throughout, and was throughout rewarded by the unanimous plaudits of a crowded house. We will not go into any details, nor specify the inequalities which, by comparison with himself and his predecessors, made some hitherto important parts seem inferior in merit; nor will we venture to decide on a single character, whether the high attribute of genius exists or not; suffice it, that the difficult effort to delineate this curious, as well as grand conception of the poet, was sustained to the entire gratification of the lovers of the drama. In only a few instances of slight action, did Mr. Kean remind us of his father; in all the rest, he was as original as *Hamlet* can be. The *Queen* was extremely well played by Mrs. Ternan, and the wild chants of the sweet *Ophelia* most sweetly sung by Miss Romer.

Haymarket.—On Saturday and since, has been performed, to full houses and shouts of laughter, a farce, the very title of which is a happy hit. It is called *Confounded Foreigners*, but instead of a term of reproach, confounds an Irishman with a Frenchman, under the alien appellation. The characters are all well played by Mrs. Nisbett, Mrs. Taylour, Mr. Humby, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Ranger, and Mr. Power; though the weight of the piece, if any thing so light can be said to have weight, lies on the shoulders of the last-mentioned admirable comedian. The predilection of two old and wealthy relatives leads to the Frenchman

(Ranger) pretending to be Irish, and the Irishman (Power) pretending to be French; and the fun which results from the attempts of the latter to *parley-vous* is perfectly irresistible. The whimsicality of the idea is capitally wrought out; and *Confounded Foreigners* has put the theatre quite at home to the end of a prosperous season. That prosperity, let us say, has been well deserved by the judgment and liberal exertions of Mr. Webster (not to mention his support as a very various and able performer), who has thus so well closed his first season, by adding to Sheridan Knowles's admired *Love Chase* this clever and ludicrous farce by Hamilton Reynolds.

Adelphi.—During the last week a farce, called *The Dancing Barber*, has been enlivening this house after the more serious, *St. Mary's Eve*, and *Valsha*. It is a piece of perfect absurdity, at which it is impossible not to laugh. We know not why (for there is nothing in the dialogue), but feel ourselves carried away by the nonsense of the thing. Wilkinson, Yates, Beverley, Misses Shaw and Taylor, and others, keep up the ball for an hour, with much spirit.

Opera Buffa.—On Tuesday, *Il Nuovo Figaro*, compressed or spoilt, and cast in a very inferior manner, was succeeded by a farce by Donizetti, called *Billy*, which contains some pretty characteristic music, which, if played with more spirit, would make a fair addition to the stock of pleasant light pieces. On Tuesday, with the exception of a fine duet by Catone and F. Lablache, the music went slowly and heavily off. Schiaroni appeared to less advantage than we expected from her agreeable acting in *Scaramuccia*. It is but fair to say, several of the performers seemed to be suffering from cold and hoarseness. It would be as well if the prompter, by any means, could be made to whisper, his voice being heard in every corner of the house.

VARIETIES.

H. B.'s Caricatures have come out in great force this week (511, 12, and 13): the first is John Bull at a window, calling for a pail of water to quash some admirably represented street ballad-singers, viz. Wakley, C. Buller, W. Harvey, Hume, Brougham, and Roebuck. The characters and the expression of the singing faces are delicious. The next is Brougham as *Jaffier*, joining the conspirators, who regard the new *Pierre* with looks of more than suspicion. Mr. Leader is next him, and Hume, Warburton, W. Harvey, C. Buller, and Sir W. Molesworth, ranged in succession. This is another capital scene. The last is a pantomimic touch. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's head, as a top, is whipped round in famous style by Lord Brougham and W. Harvey. It is very whimsical.

The New Mode of Heating Rooms, &c.—The puzzle which has been shewn at the Jerusalem Coffee-house, has set the wits of conjurers at work upon the nature of the particular fuel which, at so cheap a cost as a farthing an hour, is to warm a room. Of these conjectures we have heard two. The first is, that the gardener who discovered the fuel which enabled him to keep up the fire whilst he slept, must have used old tanners' bark, as it was the only fuel accessible in a hot-house. The other is, that charcoal is the base, and lime employed to absorb the carbonic acid gas. Gipsies are in the practice of using the ashes of their fires, raked together in a heap, and sprinkled with lime. This will burn throughout the night, and give out much heat, and no deteriorating

gas is evolved to distress the sleepers in the gipsy tent. We shall soon know the secret.

Royal Exchange.—We regret to state that this fine building, the Royal Exchange, of London, has been utterly destroyed by fire. It was of the period of Charles II.—a period auspicious to the architecture of England.

We dined at the Crown and Anchor on Wednesday with the agriculturists and horticulturists, Mr. Glenny in the chair; but, as there is nothing to praise, we shall be silent; and, indeed, should not have taken any notice of this festival, but that we were forcibly struck by some very fine speaking; *ex. gr.* A gentleman.—“I am extremely doubtful whether Adam, when in the Garden of Eden, was surrounded by such an array of intellect as I see assembled at this moment.”

Weather Wisdom.—The severe storm, which began on Sunday afternoon, and has continued ever since, was not foreseen by either of our prophets (see last *Gazette*). “13th. Cold, gloomy clouds, and windy. The parallel declination of the moon, Saturn, and Mercury, this day, will cause very dark air, and, probably, a gale of wind, N.E. The 15th, fair; the conjunction of Mars and Mercury that day may bring fog and wind, however; and, as the sun is near the aspect of Saturn, the 16th and 17th will be cold and cloudy, and the nights frosty. The last quarter rather changeable.”—*Morrison*. “13th. Fair and frost. 14th. Changeable. 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th. Fair and frost.”—*Murphy*.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.

The History and Description, with Graphic Illustrations, of Tuddington, the Seat of Charles Hanbury Tracy, Esq. M.P. by John Britton, F.S.A.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Outlines of the Principle Diseases of Females, by F. Churchill, 8vo. 10s. 6d.—The Miseries and Beauties of Ireland, by J. Biass, 2 vols. post 8vo. 25s.—A New Derivative and Etymological Dictionary, by J. Rowbotham, 18mo. 7s.—A Sermon preached in the Parish Church of Banbury, by Rev. John Bull, D.D. 8vo. 2s.—Mary and Florence at Sixteen, 12mo. 6s.—Bishop D. Wilson's Sermons in India, 8vo. 12s.—Quain's Anatomy, Part II. 4th edition, 8vo. 5s.—Turner's Chemistry, 6th edition, Part II, 8vo. 5s.—The Cry of the Constitution, by T. B. Bernard, Esq. Vol. II. Part I. 8vo. 6s.—Notes of a Journey through Canada, United States, and West Indies, by J. Logan, 7s.—Martelli's Naval Officer's Guide, 2d edition, fcap. 6s. cloth.—Country Attorney's Pocket Remembrancer, by H. Moore, 18mo. 4s.—Lectures on the Book of Enoch, by Dr. T. McCae, fcap. 5s.—The Genealogies recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, by W. Morris, 4to. 1s. 1s.—The Scottish Christian Herald, Vol. II. 8s.—Family Library, Vol. LXIV. History of Bastille, 5s.—Lord Bacon's Works, 2 vols. imp. 8vo. 2s.—Wilson's French Dictionary, 18mo. roan, lettered, 5s.—Ward's Miscellanies, 1837, imp. 8vo. cloth, 10s. 6d.—Bible Stories for my little Children, by a Father, 2d Series, 2s. 6d.—Horace Poeticæ, by a Retired Physician, 8vo. 5s.—The Annual Scrap-Book, 1838, fcap. 5s.—W. Rhind's Age of the Earth considered, fcap. 5s.—Loudon's Gardener's Magazine, Vol. XIII. 8vo. 1837, 20s. 6d.—Magazine of Natural History, Vol. I. New Series, for 1837, II. 4s. 6d.; Architectural Magazine, Vol. IV. II. 4s. 6d.—Characters of Shakespeare's Plays, by W. Hazlitt, 3d edition, 6s.—The Fifth of November; or, the Romish Apostasy contrasted with the Faith once delivered to the Saints, by Dr. A. B. Evans, D.D. 18mo.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1838.

January.	Thermom.	Baromet.
Thursday . . . 4	24 to 45	29.94 to 29.99
Friday . . . 5	24 to 33	30.13 to 30.18
Saturday . . 6	24 to 38	30.18 to 30.17
Sunday . . . 7	28 to 36	30.17 to 30.29
Monday . . . 8	23 to 31	30.28 to 30.19
Tuesday . . . 9	17 to 26	30.17 to 30.08
Wednesday 10	17 to 27	29.96 to 29.97

Winds, N.W. and N.E.
Except the mornings of the 4th and 10th, generally cloudy; rain on the 4th, a dense fog on the 5th, and snow on the 8th and three following days.
Rain fallen, .05 of an inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.
Latitude 51° 37' 32" N.
Longitude 0° 51' W. of Greenwich.

ADVERTISEMENTS,

Connected with Literature and the Arts.

MONUMENT TO CHATTERTON.

A few gentlemen of Bristol, admirers of the genius of Chatterton, and desirous of enriching the city of his birth with a memorial of his literary fame, have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory in the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, or in some other appropriate situation.

There is no stone or tablet within the walls of Bristol to tell the stranger of one of her most highly gifted sons, or to recall the memory of his genius to the present generation. The local efforts now being made to supply this memorial, will, it is hoped, be successful; but as the fame of Chatterton is a national possession, contributions are invited from all who have sympathized with the fortunes and character of the youthful poet, and who can feel it a pleasure to join in paying a tribute of admiration and regret at the shrine of neglected genius.

Subscriptions will be received by John Dix, Jun., Esq., 2 Duncan Place, Islington; The Editor of the *Literary Gazette*, Wellington Street, Waterloo Bridge, Strand; Mr. Strong, Bookseller, Bristol and Kester; and by Alexander George, Esq., Bristol, the Treasurer.
Bristol, 31 Dec., 1837.

Subscriptions already received.

	£.	s.	d.
Joseph Cottle	1	0	0
Alexander George	5	0	0
Al Friend, per C. George	5	0	0
Arthur Palmer	1	0	0
Richard Smith	5	0	0
Francis Harrison Rankin	0	10	6
W. P. Taunton	1	0	0
William Harwood	1	0	0
R. P. King	5	0	0
James Cunningham	1	0	0
C. William Sanders	1	0	0
C. H. Fidd	1	0	0
Michael Castle	1	0	0
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